THE TABLOID Bridget Jones offers sexual healing



THE TABLOID Peter Hall: my debut at the Old Vic



COMMENT The girls in the band PAGE 17





The Ministry of Incompetence

500 BSE-riddled cows fester undergound while officials dither

Buried cows tell no tales. Which is a into the water supply. BSE-infected pity, because there are 500 of them buried under this landfill site, near 1991, when government scientists sud-Burnley in Lancashire If only dead BSE-infected cows could talk, they might explain what has been going on at the tip for the past seven years. Have they been polluting the water? Could infective bovine spongiform en-cephalopathy prions have been passed

to people or animals in the area? Certainly, a dead cow could not do worse job of explaining it than the bumans who are supposed to know did. vesterday. In the world of BSE, trying to find out any fresh fact is a slow, circular process that usually ends in frustration. And at the centre you always find the Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food (Maff). A year of the beef crisis, and its links with 13 hu-

man deaths, have not changed that. In 1990 a local paper, the Burnley Express, revealed that BSE-infected cattle were being buried at the Rowley site. Councillors were horrified. Action was demanded. None was taken.

The cows rotted. But although the heads of the cat-

infective agent, might leach into the water supply via the rivers, and from there carcasses have not been buried since

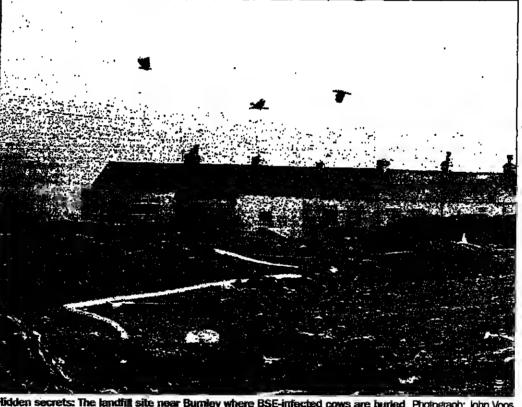
dealy woke up to the infection risk: But before that, 6,117 cattle were buried. Yesterday morning, I asked the Maff press office if it could confirm that there were BSE carcasses at the Rowley tip. "That information isn't held

centrally," the spokeswoman said.

I called Burnley District Council. Did the environmental health officers know anything about the possible leaching from the site? "I think that tip is handled by Lancashire County Council," the man said. I called Lancashire County Coun-

cil. The environmental health team was not sure if there were BSE carcasses in the tip. I should speak to the council's regional veterinary manager. So, did he know if there were BSE car-

casses at the tip? He pondered briefly. "In the early days of the BSE epi-demic the procedure wasn't so refined," he said. "But the carcasses were licensed to go to specific destinations. So yes, there would be records of movements. I think Maff would know that. the had been removed before burial, Have you tried their offices in Tolthe spinal cords and spleen remained. worth? ... Ask for the BSE section."



Hidden secrets: The landfill site near Burnley where BSE-infected cows are buried Photograph: John Voos

Scenting progress, I called the Maff of-fices in Tolworth and asked for the BSE section. "Ah," they said. "Have you spoken to the press office?" Yes. I had. "I'll get right back," said the spokeswoman.

That was two hours ago. And I still do not know what the cattle buried 10 foot down in a landfill in Lancashire have been doing for seven years. Maybe Maff does. But if so, it is as silent about it, as silent as a headless cow.

The Meat Hygiene Service was set up in controversial circumstances nearly two years ago as an agency under the auspices of Maff to replace the meat inspection service of local authorities. At the time, the Institution of Environmental Health Officers said the change

was less accountable to consumers. Ann Foster of the Scottish Consumers Council, one of only two in-

Hygiene Service board, said she had raised concerns with the chairman of the board about issues such as dirty cattle last November. She said: "There isn't any definition of what constitutes dirty cattle. If they just have one patch of faeces, should they be rejected?" Mrs Foster said that the MHS had planned to send photographs of dirty cattle to all vets but dependent members of the Meat she did not know if this had been done.

Inspectors warned of potential timebomb

Anthony Bevins and Christian Wolman

A warning that there was a "po-tential timebomb" of declining standards in Britain's abattoirs rought an angry reaction from Major and colleagues closing

ranks to attack the messenger. The front-line warning was de- was on top of the job. from the Association of Meat Inspectors to Angela Browning, Minister of State for Agriculture, and

the official Meat Hygiene Service. Just weeks before the Prime Minister assured the Commons that action had been taken to clean up the slanghterhouses, Mrs Browning was told by the AMI: "Our levels of enforcement in bygiene at present leave much to be

"Present legislation is adequate to improve hygiene, but the will to enforce is sadly lacking. Faecal con-

E.coli, needs to be far more rigorously controlled - without delay. John Prescott, Labour's deputy

leader, said: "That's very serious, in view of the fact that Mr Hogg in the House last week was making it absolutely clear that standards were good and improving

inspectors makes it clear not only that that is not so, but that ministers knew that weeks ago."

When Tony Blair, in Prime Minister's Questions, called for an inquiry, Mr Blair said the letters showed that contrary to what the House had been told, contamination was getting worse, not better.

While that demand was accepted by Mr Major, in exchanges marked by their unusually constructive nature, he pointed out the inspectors' responsibilities for en-

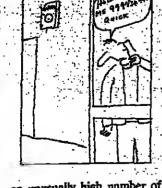
= a false alarm

Once upon a time the jangling sound of a burglar alarm would have precipitated the plodding arrival of a beat bobby. Now i is the subject of a mathematically basel police investigation of Pythagorean proportions.

Angered by the enormous waste of resources emused by i million false alarm calls a year, the Association of Chief Police Officers has turned to the services of a statistician to identity inefficient alarm installers.

The fiendishly complicated piece of algebra he has devised ishown above) is said to be virtually infallible and could resulutionise British policing. By entering the number of

Almost all false alarms are



an unusually high number of false signals, police say they will refuse to work with the firm. Nigel Craig, of Eurotech Se-

false alarms into the equation, curity Systems in north London, police believe they can nab complained to the Met after reposal has triggered a Klanon of caving an explanation of the disapproval from the barglar formula. I have not got the fogalarm industry.

Almost all 614 rogue installers. But the proabout I can only assume either some people have nothing betcaused by users, who can all some people have nothing bet-ready be blacklisted under the tree to do or this is part of a conpc lice's "four strikes and you're "spiracy to improve the income of at" rule. Yet if an installer has of my psychiatrist."

Aids doctor struck off The doctor at the centre of an Aids scare was yesterday struck off the medical register following his admission that he did not have an HIV test for eight months after an ex-lover warned he was at risk. Page 5

FO Albania warning All British nationals in Albania were urged to leave by the Foreign Office yesterday, as the re-bellion spread to the north of the country. Between 80 and 100 Butons are thought to be working in northern Albania. . Page 12

Jails full to the brim Prisons in England and Wales are "full to the brim and can accept no more", the Prison Governors' Association told the Home Office yesterday. It also emerged that the Prison Service accepts that it will almost certainly have to use expensive police cells in the next two to three

Bookies' bonanza Thousands descended on Chel-

of the annual National Hunt Festival. With unseasonally warm weather, bookies were set for a bonanza

Bundesbank admits EMU fudge possible

imre Karacs Yvette Cooper

Senior officials of Germany's central bank insisted yesterday that European Monetary Union should go ahead on time, even if it meant watering down the criteria for membership.

The comments come as speculation reaches fever pitch in financial markets and official circles that monetary union will have to be postponed. A delay would delight British opponents of the single currency, but would severely dent the European Union's credibility. In an attempt to quell the

fudging the Maastricht criteria.

speculation, three members of the council which governs the Bundesbank spoke out at separate events on Monday night. They said that Emu must go tenham yesterday, for the start ahead, even at the price of

Bundesbank has been the voice of fiscal rectitude urging strict adherence to the limits set hy Maastricht. The treaty says that states must keep their budget deficit below 3 per cent of GDP if they are to enter a single currency. The alternative, the gnomes of Frankfurt argued, was chaos and instability for Europe's brand new bank hote.

Now the same people are go-Germany's debate, page 11

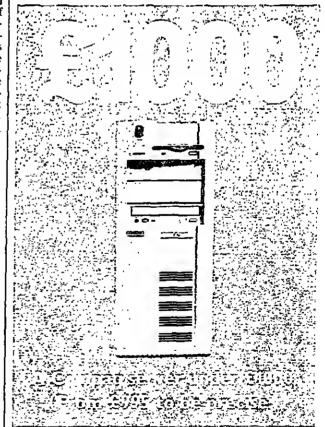
ing soft on the euro. "The 3 per cent deficit criterion should not be a knock-out criterion," declared Ernst Welteke, a member of the Bundesbank's. Central Council.

colleagues said the alternative to moving the goalposts would be postponement. This prospect was too horrible to contemplate. Their statements give a new as it would push up the twist to the unfolding debate deutschmark, pricing German Sport, pages 26 & 28 | within Germany's ruling élite goods out of export markets.

fluential figures in the establishment who have come around to the view that the advantages of a delay would out-weigh the disadvantages. Rumours of a delay to the sin-

gle currency have been circulating for several weeks. But yesterday's remarks did little to dissipate the confusion in the City. Martin Ely, of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, said: "We're not getting any clear message. Between the so-called wise men, finance ministers and politicians we're getting confused signals and the market's not sure which way to take it."

One theory for the Bundesbank's candour is that it has come under considerable pressure from the big German banks Mr Welteke and two of his : to calm speculation about delays. Speaking in London yesterday. Jürgen von Hagen, Director of the Bonn-based Centre for European Integration, said: "The Banks and financial industry in Germany are hercely in favour of Emu going ahead on time."



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Roisin McAliskey bail application adjourned

An application for bail by Roisin McAliskey, who is suspected of being involved in IRA terrorist activities, was yesterday adjourned until Friday. Ms McAliskey. 25, the daughter of the former Ulster MP Bernadette Devlin. is being held in Holtoway prison in north London as a Category A prisoner and has been warned that she may not be allowed to keep her baby when it is born in two months' time. Her continued detention has enraged human rights

Ms McAliskey is being held pending extradition to Germany where she is wanted in connection with the attempted mortar attack on a British army base in Osnabruck last year. She denies any involvement and has not so far been charged.

Lee Clegg attacked by soldiers

Lee Clegg, the paratrooper who was released after serving four years for the murder of Belfast teenager Karen Reilly, was the victim of a serious assault by two other soldiers, it emerged

Lance Corporal Clegg, who was convicted in 1993 of murdering the 18-year-old joyrider, suffered facial injuries and had a tooth knocked out in the attack at Catterick, North Yorkshire. His solicitor. Simon McKay, said: "He was the victim of a serious assault and has suffered facial injuries which required stitches. The incident, which happened as he was returning to his hillet on Saturday night, is being investigated by military police."

One dead in 50-car fog pile-up

One person died and another 13 were seriously injured in a 50-car pile-up in dense fog yesterday, just 24 hours after the carnage on the M42 left three dead and 62 injured. This accident happened on the A19 near Crathorne in North Yorkshire. The first pile-up happened shortly before 8am as about 15 vehicles, including two forries, slammed into the back of each other.

Moments later a second pile-up occurred on the northbound----side as motorists slowed to look at the scene. Traffic police pointed to a section of drivers that did not heed the dangerous weather conditions and ended up travelling too fast and too close to one

Boyfriend loses share of lottery win



A lottery winner gained a legal victory vesterday to prevent her former boyfriend getting half her £1.3m fortune.

Lisa Lee, 30 (left) was sued by David Jones. 34, for a share of the windfall she won in April 1995. Two months after she collected her cheque from Camelot. the lottery organisers, the couple split up. Mr Jones, who

successfully applied for legal aid to pursue the case, claimed they had shared

household finances during the 12-year relationship. He was left to survive on £64 a week social security money after the relatiooship ended. Cardiff County Court was told. But in her evidence Miss Lee insisted she bought the winning ticket with her own cash and never regarded him as her partner. Judge Hywel Moseley rejected Mr Jones's case and said he did not find his claims credible. He is to give a full judgment at a later date.

Evans snubs radio award ceremony

Chris Evans, the ex-Radio 1 DJ, snubbed a prestigious awards fellow broadcaster Danny Baker and the footballer Paul Gascoigne. Evans, 30, was due to accept his trophy for Radio Personality of the Year at the Grosvenor House Hotel. But he went to the Groucho club in Soho instead. Evans, and former Radio 5 Live football host Baker turned up at the hotel with Gascoigne and several minders. They were photographed but then disappeared.

Eurostar train hits lorry on crossing

An investigation was ordered yesterday after a Eurostar high speed train bound for London hit a lorry at a level crossing 30 miles west of Brussels in Belgium. The Brussels-Waterloo train was carrying 107 passengers and 10 crew, but none of them nor the driver of the empty cattle forry was injured.

Bungled jet repairs to cost firm £5m

Private repair contractors, who caused millions of pounds of damage to frontline RAF Tomado fighters, have agreed to pay £5m

in compensation, it was announced yesterday.

The total cost of the damage, by civilian contractors Airwork. amounted to £20m and the centre fuselage sections of 16 Tornados had to be replaced.

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Gin and Jag: Jennifer Ehle in C4's genteel murder mystery drama, Mellssa, by Alan Bleasdale

Ripping yarn for Ehle, but not a bodice to be seen

lan Bleasdale, writer of GBH and Boys from the Allackstuff, has turned from gritty social com-mentary to the gin and Jag set for Channel 4's big spring drama Melissa.

Jenniter Ehte, who played Elizabeth Bennet in the

BBC1 production of Pride and Prejudice, stars in the title role of Bleasdale's first genteel murder mystery. The five-part serial, which starts In April, was updated from a 1960s script by the classic "country house" thriller writer Francis Durbridge.

Its tortuous niot involves a Bosnian war correspondent played by Tim Dutton, last seen in Rhodes, who gets involved with Ehle's PR woman and then a series of baffling crimes. Bleasdale described it as "e morality tale disguised as a detective story."

Other highlights of Channel 4's spring and summer season include a weekend devoted to the situation comedy and another week-long special of its soap Brookside - this time killing off some children to boost ratings just weeks after its new rival Channel S launches.

Guaranteed to attract the attention of the Daily Mail, which dubbed Channel 4's former chief executive

McCartney

elevated to the

holy orders

Sir Paul McCartney was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace

yesterday, attending the ceremony without his wife, Linda, who has been

undergoing treatment for cancer, and

has not now appeared in public for

Sir Paul is only the second pop

star to receive a knighthood, Cliff

George Martin, the Beatles record

The former Beatle, who says his

and Ringo now refer to him as "Your

Hollness", arrived at the palace in a

chauffeur-driven limousine accompa

The Queen asked Sir Paul how his

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

was progressing. "I told her it was still going well," said Sir Paul. "I'm

still heavily involved in music and I

have a new album, called Flaming

The ex-Beatle, who allegedly

smoked cannabis at the palece after

knighthood was one of the best days

receiving his MBE in 1965 with the

other Beatles, said receiving his

Pie, coming out in May."

nied by three of his children.

erstwhile sparring partners George

producer, was knighted last year.

Richard being the other, though

over a year.

Michael Grade "Britain's Pornographer In Chief" is The Investigator. It is based on a true story and features Cardiec Arrest'e Helen Baxendale as a military police investigator who seeks out lesbians and gays in the Army then starts to realise she is a lesbian herself.

Shuart Cosgrove, Channel 4's head of arts and enter-tainment, confirmed that he has signed Chris Evans, Radio 1's errant disc jockey, to two unnamed series for the autumn in addition to his TFI Friday chat show. However Mr Cosgrove regretted that he was unable to persuade Chin's Morris, who's controversial Brass Eye series ended last week, to produce an election special for the

The Channel is bringing its innovations in late night youth" programming to the daytime. Light Lunch, a live cookery and chat magazine programme with a comedy edge starts in March. Channel 4 has been revembing its afternoons and its success is starting to worry its advertising department. Because it is attracting targe audiences in the daytime the channel is bringing down-market C1 and C2 viewers to a station that makes its money from ABC1 viewers.

Tax woman to head CSA

The controversial Child Support Agency has a new chief executive. Faith Boardman, the former chief executive of the Contributions Agency, takes up her post in a month. Her appointment, made yesterday by the Secretary of

State for Social Security, Peter Lilley, comes four months after the previous head of the agency, Ann Chant, resigned. Like her predecessor, Mrs Boardman is a career civil servant. She will be paid

around £80,000, Including a performance boous. After graduating with a degree in history from Oxford she joined HM Customs and Excise. In April 1995, she was appointed chief executive of the Contributions Agency,

which colects National insurnce contributions. Ms Chant resigned last November. Sha was credited with saving the agency from collapse but faced constant difficulties after replacing Ros Hepplewhite in 1994 at the height of controversy over the CSA'e performance.

Obesity fears as children get fatter and taller

Children in England and Scotland are growing taller but also much fatter. The trend, confirming evidence from earlier studies, emerged from surveys conducted between 1972 and 1994 of 7,000 English and 3,500 Scottish schoolchildren aged fixe to 11. As feets grow over the rise in obesity, the Department of Health

said work was in progress to establish why. The study by researchers at St

Thomas's hospital in south London found that the height of Scottish children increased by an average of more than 2cms while English children grew by nearly 15cm. But the children had also become fatter. The "skintold thickness howed a fat increase in all children which was most pronounced in Scotland. Nine-year-old Scottish boys grew 24 per cent fatter during while 10-year-old Scottish girls became 22 per cent



Scottish doctors in rush to quit

A Scotland-wide survey among family doctors has shown a crisis of morale among GPs which needs urgent attention, the Scotlish Liberal Democrats said vesterday.

The survey showed a "massive level of unhappiness" with 51 per cent of doctors considering leaving medicine. It also revealed that 94 per cent were dissatisfied with the present two-tier GP system and more than one-third said they are not satisfied with their jobs. The Scotlish Liberal Democrat survey claims this dissatisfaction comes in the main from an increase in bureaucracy caused by Government reforms. However, some 85 per cent would

caused by Government reforms. However, some 85 per cent would prefer to build on the current system rather than reorganise again.

EDUCATION

Care leavers suffer schooling gap

Almost half of children leaving care have no qualifications in their 20s compared with one in six of the general population, according to a report by Barnado's.

A similar proportion of care leavers are unemployed and struggling to survive on benefits said Professor Mike Stein who carried out the study.

Those who went on schemes developed in the last decade to help care leavers were more likely to find good accommodation, managed their budgets better and were more likely to find work than those who did not. The charity is calling for more commitment and resources so that care leavers do not fall through the gaps in the support network.

What Works in Leaving Core? price £6.99 is from Barnado's Child Care Publications, Barnado's Trading Estate, Paycocke Road. Basildon, Essex, SS14 3DR

HEALTH

Low-tar danger for smokers

Any bealth-conscious smokers who opt for low-tar-cigarettes do certain way, a report claims today, No Smoking Day.

Smokers are often unaware that the cigareties have tiny vents in their filters which must not be blocked by fingers or lips, according to a report in Tobacco Control, a journal published by the British

Medical Journal publishing group.

When the cigarettes are tested by machines, the filter ventilation dilutes the passage of tar and nicotine by as much as 90 per cent. But people do not smoke like machines and many accidentally block the vents. That can double the yield of harmful carcinogens the report's authors, from Penn State University in the US, say. Tobacco Control, BMJ Publishing, BMA Public Affairs Divisio 0171 383 6254

NATURE

More help for birds of prey

Protected birds of prey which upset pigeon fanciers and grouse shooters because of their hunting habits should not be killed for doing what comes oaturally, a report says. Instead, it recommends measures to increase the numbers of wild birds on which some predators feed and more protection for pigeons and grouse...

With peregrines hunting pigeons and red grouse and hen harriers also taking grouse, pigeoo fanciers and grouse abouters want their already low numbers reduced. But the report says pigeon fanciers overlooked that their birds can dig from bad veather and exhaustion. It acknowledged that grouse numbers are declining but ettributes this to "the loss, fragmentation and poor management of much of the heather moorland".



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Techno Wizardry. Magic Price.

Sir Paul at the palace yesterday

of his tife. "tt's just a huge honour.

to this house is quite a journey."

Coming from a small terraced house

He is now 54, but some fans, also

getting older, still follow him across

from London, arrived at the palace at

said: "Paul deserves it for everything

the country. Debbie Wakeford, 38,

6am to get a glimpse of him. She

he's done. It's long overdue. But

George and Ringo deserve it too.

They bring happiness to a lot of

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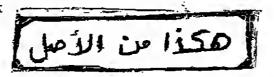
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Strong stomach for a day at the races

Clare Garner

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೧೯೦೩೮/5

It seemed half of London and more than half of Ireland descended on Cheltennam yesterday to soak up the spring sunshine at what has been dubbed the races for real people.

Unlike Ascot, the three-day Na-tional Hunt Festival is supposedly, a free-for-all affair. While it is possible to pay £345 for a seat in the new Panoramic Restaurant and £50 a head for access to the Club Enclosure, it costs just £10 to while away the day in the Courage Enclosure. Bruce Carless, a chartered ac-

"We just want a good day out in the sunshine, to have a bet and a drink. You don't have to spend £50 to do that. It's the atmosphere we want." The Irish had jetted into Britain in their droves, ready to consume gal- Pipe [the trainer] this morning," he lons of Guinness. Some will be stay- said proudly. "I only came for the

countant listening to the brass band in the £20 Tattersalls enclosure, said: ing longer than expected. One such. day, but I'll stay for the whole week a "canny gambler", according to his now. That's about £12,000 - without friends, had seen his horse, Make a the taxman bothering me." With a Stand, win the Champion Hurdle bit of luck he will have a little left over race. He had backed it 5-1 with for Saturday. "We're going to have £2,500. "I was talking to Martin, a big bash on the rugby international et to the inspector.

between Wales and England," he said. Londoners, armed with hinoc-ulars and hip flasks, had travelled up Some were being entertained by companies for the first time. They did not know what to expect. Peter on special trains. In a haze of smoke. Harthill, a caretaker, was prepared men pored over Sporting Lifes and Racing Posts. "Give us a winner then," said one as he showed his tickfor the worst: "I've got a tie in my pocket, but I ain't put it on." he said. I hate wearing ties.

Tony Mountenay had no such

worries. He had paid his tenner and expected to be quids in at the end of the day. As manager of a fishmonger on Sloane Avenue, Chelsea, he was not short of inside information: "A lot of my customers own horses," he said, reaching for another cigarette. "Handy contacts I've got there to he seen. Cheltenham's

at times - Peter O'Sullevan, Colonel Cook, Henry Cecil, Lester Piggott." For Mr Mountenay. Cheltenham is the best day of the year: "When they called it the Festival, they meant it. Royal Ascot is very snobhish. People who don't go racing go unique ... Any horse that is, is there. It's a party, that's what it is. One big party." But for all the talk of it being a "working men's races", someone must be drinking the 2,700 gallons of champagne and tucking in

Photograph: David Ashdown



Racing uncertainty: For one spectator it was a little too much on the opening day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival, dubbed the races for real people

المكذا من الأصل

Freak weather costs a fortune but saves lives

... and it's good for the orange frogs, too

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The freakishly hot year of 1995 cost the country hundreds of vember 1994 to October 1995 million pounds but prolonged were also the warmest on tens of thousands of lives by record, 1.6C above average, reducing deaths in winter, a although rainfall through that Government-funded study has year was near normal. That is concluded,

There were heavy costs for building insurers, the water industry and farming from the build up of "greenhouse gases" cacess heat, but massive savings in fuel bills. Overall, the disadvantages appear to outweigh the advantages, said the scientists who carried out the study for John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The research, published yes-terday, was intended to weigh up the impacts of 1995's strange weather and consider how permanent man-made global warming may be affecting the

Summer that year was the warmest and driest on record. Central England's average tem- holiday in their own country but

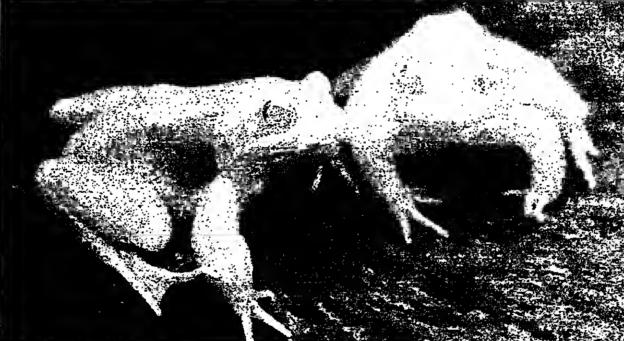
was 3C above the long-term average for those months, and rainfall a third of the average.

The 12 months from Nothe kind of temperature rise being forecast for Britain midway through the next century, as a

The research was done by 14 experts at nine universities and research institutes, led by the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit.

They found that the Christmas shopping rush was boosted by sunny weather and hot weather seemed to push up inflation. Sex crimes are more fre-quent when March, August and January are unusually warm.

Tourism: Hot weather makes Britons more inclined to go on perature for July and August perversely, also makes people



Leap in numbers: Orange frogs and other albino varieties are Increasing as the temperatures rise

pend less on attractions. In 1995, the heat cut this tourist expenditure by £235m. Visitors spend more time soaking up the sunstine, and less on fairground rides and suchlike.

was far outweighed by reduced mortality in the mild winter be-

Health: The baking summer is deaths in the hot year was estimated to have caused over about 15.000 less than it would 1,000 extra deaths. But this normally have been. Cases of people made ill by food poisoning were also pushed up as

Energy: Britain saved £355m during the year due to cheaper energy bills. But household electricity consumption rises in a hot summer, as many more er in hot spells.

Shopping: Sales of clothes and shoes fell by £383m because of

the hot summer weather. Fruit and vegetable sales rose by £25m and heer hrewers earned an extra £123m. Buildings: Clay soils shrunk in

the drought, bringing a spate of

subsidence claims, which cost the insurance companies at least £300m extra. On the other hand, there were fewer claims from frozen pipes in winter, saving up to £1.25m. Farming: British agriculture lost about £180m due to dry weather. The nation's most intportant crops, wheat, harley and oilseed rape, were boosted

by the warmth but there were poor harvests for potatoes. Livestock was hardest hit. with farmers losing some £210m. Intensively reared animals suffered in the heat. Forestry: If every year was as warm as 1995. Britain's main commercial forests - conifers planted on the uplands - would be ready for harvesting after 43 years instead of 46.

Water: There were bans on sprinklers, bosepipes and car washing across much of Britain through the summer, and in Yorkshire Water's area the se-

winter. Water companies had to spend an extra £96m on supplying water, with half of that born by Yorkshire Water alone.

The number of orange frogs. and other albino varieties, upears to he rising and this may be linked to a warming cli-mate, says the Cornwall Wildlife Trust in a report issued today.

The frogs, which range in colour from orange through vellow, pink and cream to white, lack the dark pigments which allow radpoles and young frogs to absorb solar warmth, helping them grow to adulthood.

The report's author, Mark Nicholson, points out that al-hinos are more common in southern Britain. "If they do survive better in warmer areas, we might expect their numbers to be increasing if our climate is warming," he added.

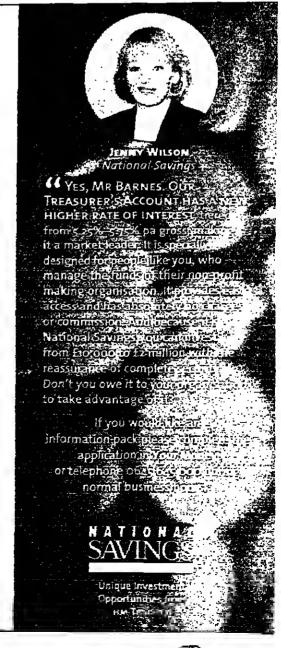
Fires: Hot, dry weather causes a sharp increase in heath, grassland and crop fires. Numbers of these fires rose by more than 50 per cent between 1994 and 1995, says the study.

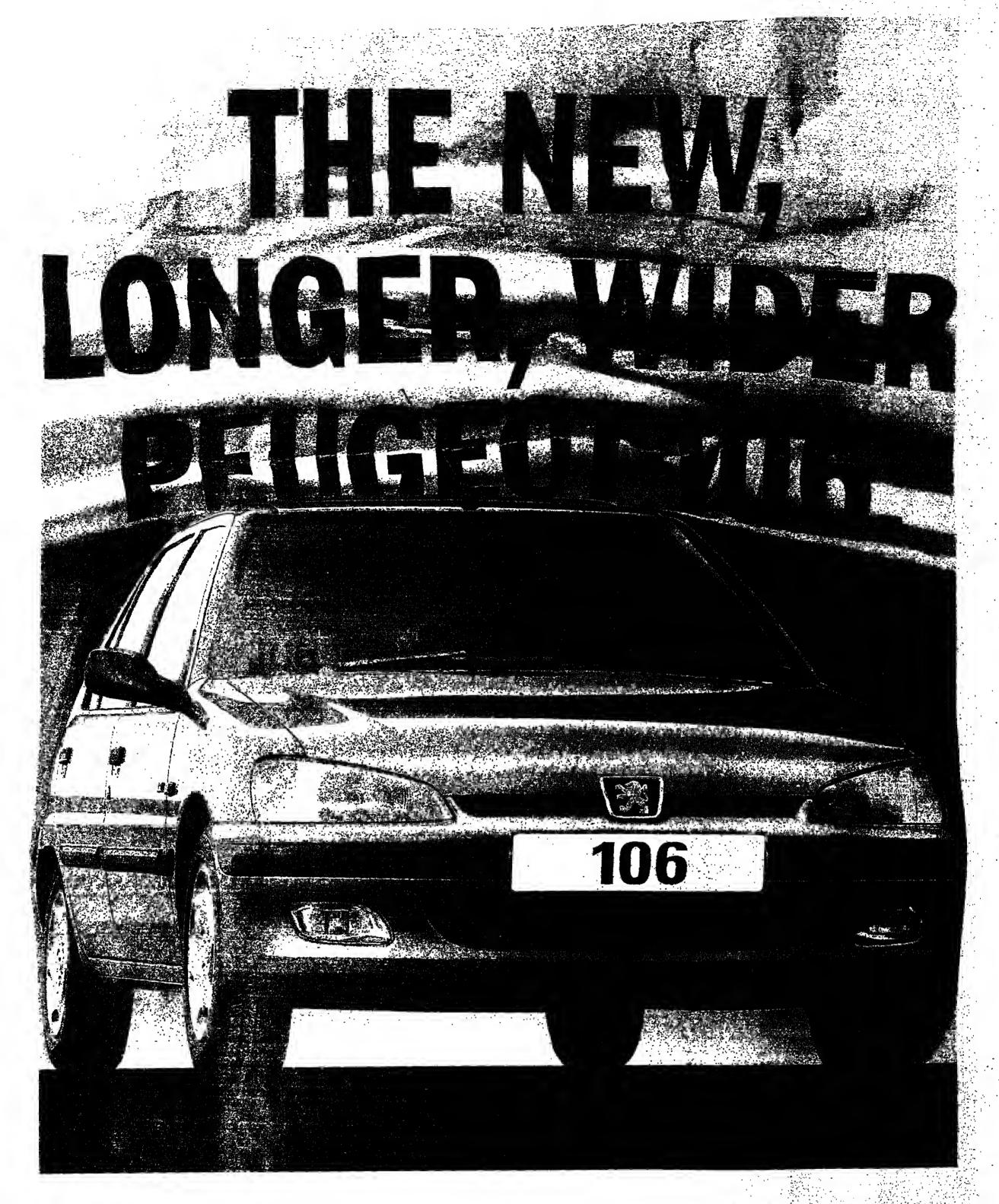
Economic impacts of the hot summer and unusually warm year of 1995. Global Atmosphere Division. Dept of Environment. Romney House. Marsham Street, London SW1.

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Doctor in Aids scare struck off for ignoring risk

The doctor at the centre of an Aids scare was yesterday struck tor to address the potential off the medical register after admitting he did not have an HIV test for eight months after an ex-lover warned he was:

Dr Patrick Ngosa, a married father of three, who has vanished since his identity was made public, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the Conduct Committee of the General Medical Council (GMC).
Professor Sir

Herbert Duthie, who chaired the hearing, said Dr Ngosa had failed to He finally told the GMC last put the safety of patients foremost and had "seriously and." persistently" misled the GMC. - who first questioned him on

the issue last June - and others. "His behaviour was a betrayal of his patients' trust and undermines the trust placed by the public in the profession. Such behaviour cannot be tolerated." Sir Herbert said. The committee would protect the confidentiality of doctors who acted responsibly in such circumstances, he added.

Rosalind Foster, for the GMC, said a former lover of Dr Ngosa contracted the virus and warned him around 1 May that he might be at risk.

made repeated efforts to persnade the Zambian-born docproblem and passed details to the GMC in June when he did not. But in a series of letters and telephone calls to health officials, Dr Ngosa denied even having the affair.

He continued applying for jobs in the NHS and worked as a locum in obstetric and gynaecological wards until 13 January this year.

Conduct Committee.

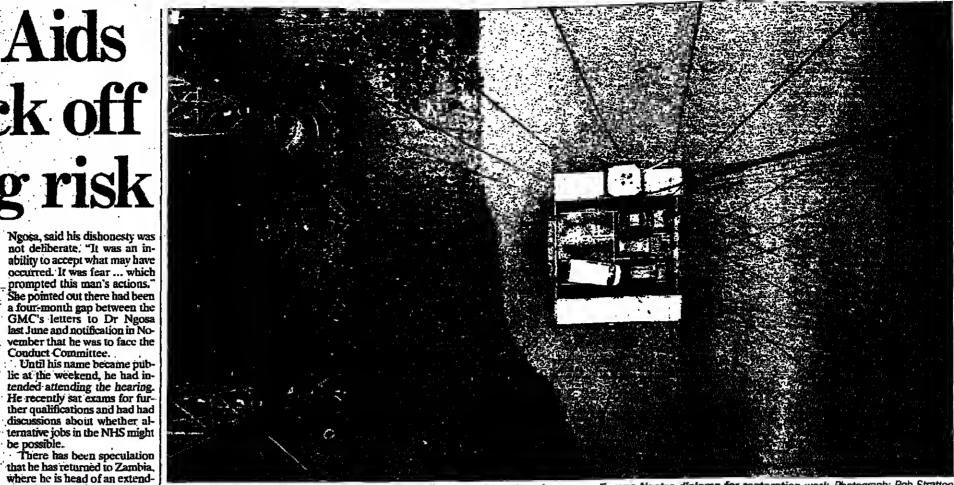
that he has returned to Zambia

Only when finally forced to take a test, which proved positive, did be admit the relationship with the unnamed woman. month.

Miss Foster said the 39-yearold doctor had a "blatant disregard" for his responsibilities He had been dishonest about his affair and was determined to remain in practice "at, it would appear, almost all costs, irrespective of the risk to pa-

There were still some concerns that he had worked elsewhere than the hospitals in London, Essex, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire which were already contacting 1,752 former patients considered to be at small risk from contact with

But Nicola Davies QC, for



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Prize ride: Newport Transporter Bridge, Gwent, built early this century, has won a Europa Nostra diploma for restoration work Photograph: Rob Stratton

Wigan rugby chief denies libel scam

Jack Robinson, chairman of ife before the match. The Wigan Rugby League Club. tried to induce the director of ports alleging players had been another chilt to join him in a involved in "a drunken binge". fraudulent scheme to win damages case against his local news- one player, Nell Cowie, as be-

that Mr Robinson, 54, devised a scheme to pursue an action for. damages against the Wigan Observer, claiming that as a result of its report, Leeds Rugby League Club had pulled out of a lucrative transfer deal for

one of Wigan's star players. Alan Conrad, for the prosecution, said Mr Robinson sought the help of Alfred Davies, chief executive of Leeds, to support his claim, which stemmed from a match. in February last year when Wigan were surprisingly beaten by Salford.

Mr Robinson gave an interwhich he criticised the club.



fraudulent damages bid

interview was followed by re-

The paper mistakenly named paper, a court heard yesterday. ing a member of the holiday Bolton Crown Court heard group when he was not present. group when he was not present. Mr Robinson decided to try to turn the mistake to his financia advantage in a fraudulent manner, Mr Conrad said.

In phone calls to Mr Davies Robinson suggested the bogus transfer deal with a view to splitting the profits of a libel action "50-50". "That was clearly a fraudulent suggestion." Mr Conrad added. After Mr Davies's first refusal, Mr Robinson repeated his offer, adding: "Re the Neil Cowie situation: we will give you an extra 10 per cent

if you play ball."
"Mr Davies told him to bug-ger off.," Mr Conrad said. The Wigan Observer's editor. Carl Johnston, received a solicitors' letter claiming Cowie's proposed transfer deal had been called off due to the paper's article and demanding a retraction and payment of damages and full legal costs. When he checked the deal with Mr Davies, the "amazed" Leeds chief wrote to Mr Robinson de-

manding not to be involved. The court heard Mr Robin-son wrote to Mr Davies saying there had been "an unfortunate misunderstanding" and he had never intended to involve Mr Davies in the legal action.

Mr Robinson denies two charges of inducement to produce a fraudulent instrument and one count of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Guard sell-off plan dropped

Political Correspondent

Plans to sell off the guarding of some of Britain's most sensitive military establishments to a venture capital company have management but which still been abandoned, it was announced last night. However, the company is still expected to huy up another defence agency. using miners' and rail workers'. pension fund money to do so.

Roger Freeman, the public services minister, said last night that the Custody Services agency, which provides security for the chemical and. hiological weapons research establishment at Porton Down in Wiltshire, will remain in the public sector.

agency to an investment company called Apax Partners, but gave up last week after apparover the transfer of staff days and pushed through before

have also talked of selling the agency to CinVen, the former venture capital arm of British Coal's pensions branch, which has been bought out by its handles pension funds for British Coal and British Rail.

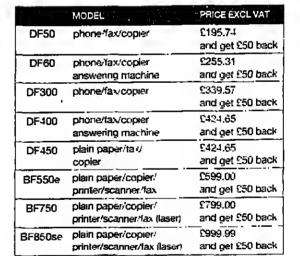
Although CinVen had not made clear who would guard the establishments at research bases such as West Freugh, in Scot-land, where missales and bombs are tested, the deal was thought to be a buy-ouf by the existing management with the firm's

financial backing However, the support services arm of the Defence, Evaluation and Research Agency, which provides information Ministers first tried to sell the technology, cleaning and properry services, is still expected to be sold to CinVen.

The deal is expected to be announced within the next few the general election.

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s usual, they were all rushing for the exits after Prime Minister's Questions, when a point of order stopped MPs in their tracks. What followed was truly wonderful.

It was Mr John Greenway, the Conservative MP for Rvedale, who had started it, when he earlier invited the Prime Minister to join him in "congratulating the Chartered Insurance Institute on its centenary year". Didn't the PM agree that "a partnership of insurance companies and the state is the best way of ensuring that future generations can meet their pension needs?"

A quick perusal of the register of members' interests indicated that the enterprising Mr Greenway had not waited for the state to act, but was ensuring his own pension needs through

a personal partnership with the industry. He is a remunerated director of the Smart and Cook Group Ltd to the tune of, er, an undisclosed amount; a shareholder in the same company and owner of a "small share" in the property leased by Smart and Cook; he is alsoparliamentary adviser to the Institute of Insurance Brokers (netting between 10 and 15 big ones), and to General

Healthcare Ltd (another 5 to 10). Clearly, a sleaze-sensor at Rebuttal House (or whatever Labour's media centre is called) bad gone off, and someone had taken a quick gander at the register - for the second that Mr Major went out. Labour's Rebutter-in-Chief Brian Wilson (Cunninghame North) was raising the question as a point of order to the Speaker. Was it in orders he asked, for Mr Greenway not

Aaronovitch

Bleeper triggers panic at technological invasion

a question?

There was uproar. But not because of Mr Greenway's supposed misdeeds. For Mr Wilson had not taken delivery of this information via scribbled note, or the burried whisper of an in-rushing colleague. No, he stood at the dispatch

to declare his interests when asking such box, smoking bleep in hand. He had had mechanical as

Sensitive Tories were horrified. Ian Bruce (Dorset South) condemned Mr Wilson "with his electronic devices", containing "messages from Mr Mandelson". Could Wilson and his infernal machines not be arraigned for witchcraft? Speaker Betty was adamant. "electronic devices that make noises should not be used in this chamber, she

Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) was not mollified. "Is it appropriate. correct and permissible to use an electronic device in this House?" he demanded. The Speaker had spoken about noise, but "what about those that don't make a noise?" Or (he didn't ask) those discreet personal ones that make just the smallest, buzzing kind of noise?

Up squeaked Harrow West's boy soprano Robert Hughes. Further to the point of order, relating to the other point of order", he trilled, "was it in order", for a member to be receiving instructions from somebody in the Labour Party dirty tricks department"? (Let us recall that this particular dirty

trick consisted of reading the register of members' interests and then telling Mr Wilson about it.)

Labour's Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull North) requested urgent clarification. A respected former member of this House had used an electronic device, he said mysteriously, so would this have been outlawed? I recalled that Jack Ashley had always used an industrial-strength hearing-aid. But did McNamara really need clarification? Was he genuinely worried that Berty would leave deaf members unaided?

Tewkesbury Tory, Gcoffrey Clifton-Brown weighed in. "We on this side of the House clearly heard the bleeper operated", he whined. I doubt it, Geoffrey, since it was almost certainly set to "vibrate". Perhaps it was your

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



Major 7/10

Major responded straightforwardly to Blair's questions. He and Blair were so constructive that many MPs became bored and started chatting.

Blair 7/10

Blair did not secure the establishment of an independent food standards agency, but he made progress with his other de-

THEMES OF THE DAY

*Publication of primary school league tables (Charles Hendry, C. High Peak; Paddy Ashdown; Peter Butler, C, Mitton Keynes NE) • The future for pensions (John Greenwi ure for pensions (John Greenway, C, Ryedale) vative "deal" with tobacco industry in 1992 (Joe

•VAT on domestic fuel (Joan Walley, Lab, Stoke on Trent N)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair asked about letters from the Association of Meal Inspectors to the Meal Hygiene Service and Ministers, which had raised concerns about st abattoirs over nine months. Would Major make enquiries and would the Minister of Agriculture publish an account of the allegations, and the warnings that had been given to ministers? Major said this views of the General Secre-tary of the AMI, as expressed in the letters, contrasted with those of the Vice ent, who had praised MHS. But he concluded: "Notwithstanding that . I will most certainly do so".





Nicely put the Prime Minister on the soot over Conservative election poster sites being provided by to-

ye" from the opposition.

successes in Lib Dem councils' ar-

not have known of the success if the Tories had not published the tables. Pre-election tension seems to be exorcising quips from the chamber. But Major's arrival is now greeted with shouts of "bye

eas; Major pointed out that he would

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION Walley: "Does [Major] recall that five years ago yesterday the then Chancellor of the Exchanger made a promise in his Budget speech that he would not increase VAT on fuel? Aren't we entitied now to know why the government claim go ahead with the promise?" Major replied by asking about the effects of Labour's



THE CREEP OF THE DAY Greenway: "Would my fit Hon Friend join me in congratulating. the Chartered insurance institute on its centenary year.

Doesn't he agree that a partnership of insurance companies and the state is the best way of ensuring that future generations can meet their pension needs? Compiled by Ben Summers

Clarke at odds over VAT claim

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Politicians and the public were left pondering who was telling the truth yesterday after Kenneth Clarke and Yvette Murphy, a reporter for The Grocer magazine, defended their conflicting stories over whether or not the Chancellor wanted to raise VAT on domestic fuel to 17.5 per cent.

The battle over The Grocer report now threatens to become an election issue after Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, accused Mr Clarke of having a "secret agenda" to raise VAT. Now he has come clean," said Mr Brown,

Ms Murphy, 32, and ber editor, Clive Beddall, were standing by their story that Mr Clarke had told a group of journalists as he left a banquet that his challenge was to increase the rate of VAT on fuel to 17.5 per cent.

She had gone as a last-minute "stand-in" for a colleague. Mr Beddall had suggested that she ask Mr Clarke about Labour's claims that the Tories wanted to put VAT on food.

When the speeches were over, he sat down and I made my way to his table. He was lighting a cigar. I interrupted him and said I would like to ask him some questions," she said.

He stood up and she asked about Labour's VAT-on-food claims, which have appeared on Labour posters. Mr Clarke insisted he would not contemplate putting VAT on food. Ms Murphy pressed him on the point, saying that the Tories had previously ruled out VAT on domestic fuel, but had then imposed the tax.



Sticking by her story: Yvette Murphy, whose report in The Grocer prompted a quick response from the Chancellor

"He said that was necessary and he said that the challenge now was to get VAT up to 15 per

"It only stuck in my mind be-cause he stumbled. I was asking him the question to extract cent and then he corrected more comments about VAT on himself and said 17.5 per cent. food, which was the story I was fler. We then continued talk-

ing about VAT on food." But Mr Clarke, who was woken up in China by calls from Conservative Central Office to deny the reports, insisted that he had said "nothing significant"

about VAT on fuel. The Chancellor said it had not crossed his mind to raise the

VAT rate on fuel after the ing VAT on fuel after Parlia -- have never crossed his mind. Commons rejected the increase in a government defeat-but he

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, backed the Chancellor at a party election press conference, and Downing Street officials said the Prime Minister would be hap-

py to reinforce that support. Mr Clarke, on a visit to Peking, said: "Any implication

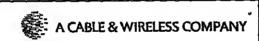
ment settled it on 8 per cent is nonsense. If she [Ms Murphy] stopped short of an outright has presented my remarks in the denial of her precise claims.

fuel, that is not correct. This is all a phoney political dehate because a tax-raising chancellor keeps having to answer questions about lax inthat I have contemplated raising of myself in the third person

"Suddenly alighting on a phrase in an off-the-peg interview in The Grocer, which at the time was not regarded as a sigstatement of intention about nificant new statement by the VAT on fuel or any sensational new remark about VAT on the economic debate away from

He said on BBC radio that Ms Murphy had clearly not thought he was saying anything important at the time as his creasing proposals that -speak- comments were buried in the middle of an inside page report.

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Health authority faces sack over old people's ward closure

Annabel Ferriman

Members of a health authority could be sacked for approving the sudden move of five elderly people into a nursing bome - in order to close a ward - against the advice of the doctor in charge. Three of the patients died within three weeks of the

A parliamentary select committee will today recommend that the Secretary of State for Health consider sacking the members of North and Mid-Hampshire Health Authority for the decision.

The committee, chaired by James Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said that the members and officers should be ashamed of what took place. We recommend that the Secretary of State review the suit-

ability of these persons to be in positions of responsibility in the health service.

The committee condemned the way that the decision to close the ward, at Park Prewett Hospital, Hampshire, and move the patients, was taken behind closed doors and in the face of a strong recommendation against it by the consultant in old age psychiatry, Dr Pearl Hettiaratchy, who is a vicepresident of the Royal College

of Psychiatrists. The patients were eventually moved when the doctor was on holiday.

Mr Pawsey said yesterday: "This was an appalling case. It is very rare that a committee recommends that the Secretary of State review the suitability of health authority members to be in positions of responsibility.

That underlines the seriousness The select committee was commenting on the report of

the Health Service Ombudsman, who had already condemned the actions of the health authority in his report for 1995-96. He investigated the matter, after a complaint from relatives of one of the patients who was moved - a man in his 90s, who died two weeks after being put into a nursing home. The select committee went

further than the Ombudsman, however. It said: "We cannot criticise strongly enough this brazen attempt to ignore the expert advice of the responsible clinician who had known the patient for six years. Her advice was inconvenient to the relevant

in England, in speaking of this case, did not question the motives or integrity of the authorcust fost pour

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ity. We do. The decision to bring forward the move was made without knowledge of the clinical assessment of all the patients and pursued in a highly improper manner. The interests of

the patients were forgotten. We criticise the authority for making the decision in a closed meeting. We consider that the description of the meeting as informal, despite all the trappings of a formal meeting, suggests some sleight of hand and an attempt to rush through a decision without the inconveniences of public scrutiny and possible controversy. We deplore such nanagers." blatant disregard for depart-"Mr [Alan] Langlands, Chief mental guidance."

Parties squabble over school blame

Labour and the Conservatives battled yesterday over the re-sponsibility for bad schools after the publication of the first primary league tables. writes Judith Judd.

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, said the 10 worst-performing local education authorities were all Labour-controlled, compared with only I of the best 10. Tony Blair has claimed that there is no need to be afraid of Labour. These performance

Tahles dispel that myth."

David Blunkett, shadow Secretary of State, retorted that 51 of the top 100 primaries were either in Labour-controlled authorities or in hung councils with Labour chairmen, Just three were in Conservative-controlled

Mr Blunkett blamed 18 years of government incompa for the fact that 4 out of 10 children failed to reach the expected standard in tests for 11-year-olds in English, maths and science.

A Labour spokesman said: "Tory efforts to politicise this are

ridiculous.

"Because Labour is in charge of most local authorities in the country it is logical that some of the worst and best will be run by Labour councils The tables cover only English

primary schools.
The Welsh Office produced different tables for 11-yearolds last month which did not identify individual schools. No tables are being published for Scotland, where par-

ents rejected tests of this type.

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Knives out for Brown's chief spin doctor

Political Correspondent

The knives were out for Gordon

Brown's chief spin doctor last night after a series of negative briefings against other members of the Shadow Cabinet. Mr Brown's colleagues have

opted to pin the blame for the attacks on Charlie Whelan, the shadow Chancellor's press offi-cer. Tony Blair's staff were becoming so fed up with rebutting the stories that they were considering telling the party leader he should be disciplined, they

However, other sources said the anger against Mr Whelan was largely a deflection of growing dissent against Mr Brown himself. Recent announcements that Labour will be as tough as the Tories on public spending and tax have upset some of his

Friends of Mr Whelan have denied that he has ever been involved in negative briefings against colleagues. Those who have been hit by suggestions that they have performed badly or are likely to be demoted include Robin Cook, John Prescott, Peter Mandelson, Chris Smith and Harriet Harman, Last night

Shadow Cabinet member said there was a "golden rule" of not giving damaging stories to the press about colleagues. Everybody else lives in

peace and harmony with each other. We are all working as a team and there is one person we all have difficulty with," the source said....

Another added that while many of the complaints stemmed from disquiet about the alternative centre of power that Gordon Brown is seen to have built up, Charlie Whe-lan tended to shoot from the hip" too often. "[Peter] Man-delson [Labour's chief spin doctor can't stand him and thinks he is out of control, and there are people in the leader's office who think that as well."

Among the damaging stories which have appeared have been reports that Mr Smith, the shadow Health Secretary, was

"in line for the chop". A report which quoted an ally of Mr Brown also said that Tony Blair had "axed" plans to create as super-ministry for John Prescott. Robin Cook, the party's Foreign Affairs spokesman, was attacked for talking publicly of a Labour

leagues said he had brought this on himself through loose talk at a Tribune anniversary party.

Even Peter Mandelson, the party's campaign manager, has been affected by the reports. A story in the Daily Telegraph said Mr Brown bad been appointed as the party's chief campaign manager, and that Mandelson would stay in the background. One shadow cabinet had likened the spate of negative reports to the work of a "serial killer".

Last night friends of Mr Whelan said the backlash against him was borne of jealousy about Mr Brown's success. they said, and because he had



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size and cost of a pint is now a political issue Photograph: Brian Hamis

Parties get in a froth over a pint

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Will they stop at nothing? VAT on food, rising fuel prices and the costs of the Social Chapter are one thing, but the British pint is quite another. Now even the warm beer eulogised by John Major in his "spinsters-onhicycles" speech has become grist to the electoral mill.

More than 100 years after buying votes with beer became illegal, both parties appeared to be indulging in rather similar tactics yesterday.

While Labour campaigned to convince people that a pint of beer would be bigger under a Blair government, the Tories launched a two-pronged initiative. A vote for Labour would be a vote for a 10-pence-a-pint price hike, they claimed, while in a rose-tinted Conservative future all pubs would be able to

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, led the first volley with a cry of: our beer!" The Government

had promised no more short measures, he said, but nothing had been done. What drinkers needed was bigger glasses and an end to slops.

Consumers don't want to listen to broken promises any more - they just want a fairer deal, he finished plaintively.

The Conservative Central Office rapid rebuttal machine was humming within minutes. No less a figure than the party's vice-chairman, Charles Hendry, was drafted in to mastermind its Beer Wars offensive.

Labour's plans for a minimum wage would put 10p on a pint, he said. Drinkers up and down the country would find that hard to swallow, he added,

getting into his swing.

His statement followed hot on the heels of news that the Government was to change the rules to allow landlords to sell more types of beer. A 1989 order allowing tied houses to sell a guest cask-conditioned draft beer is to be extended both to bottles and to widget-cans. You can't trust the Tories with thereby raising a cheer from saloon bars across the land.

Public workers' rights at risk

Labour Editor

thousands of British workers

"contracting out" of public ser- simployees whose work had been vices will now be far more haz- contracted out. ardous for the employees concerned. Under the judg-ment, the terms and conditions

The ruling by judges in Lux-embourg, on a case brought by a German cleaner, will no doubt be welcomed by ministers who are keen to promote the contracting out of state-funded services. It will also prompt a fresh wave of litigation between employers and unions.

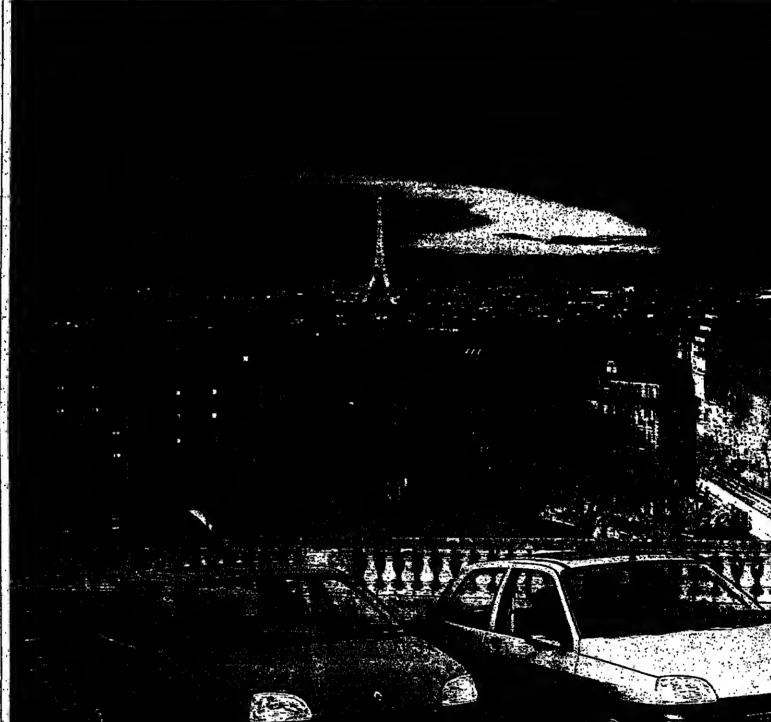
Lawyers yesterday said the decision would reopen the debate over whether all work contracted out by state-owned public services was covered by the European Acquired Rights Di-

closu

of employees are protected when a new contractor was ap-The job security of hundreds of pointed. John McMullen, head of the employment department was undermined yesterday by a at solicitors Pinset Curtis, said it surprise European Court ruling would leave uncertainty over the The decision means that the degree of job security enjoyed by

· Critical to any decision about whether the directive applied was if there had been a "transof workers will not be auto- fer of undertakings" between matically protected when their one company and another. Such employer loses a contract and a transfer was said to have takwork is transferred to an- - en place if the incoming company took over tangible or intangible assets of the old contractor, its employees or its customers.

Unions fear the ruling means that where the new company takes over only a proportion of be possible to argue that the directive does not operate. Existing workers could then be taken over by the successful bidder on inferior terms and conditions. The out-going contractor who would have to foot redundancy bills for those left.



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VERSAILLES NOW WITH ONE YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Juils in England and Wales are "full to the brim and can accept no more", prison governors told the Home Office yesterday. It also emerged that the Prison Service accepts that it will almost certainly have to use expensive police cells in the next

England and Wates at a record 59,156 last Friday, there are only being bused around the country to try to find them a bed for the night.

The scale of the problem was underlined by Chris Scott, chairman of the Prison Governors' Association (PGA), who told his annual conterence that

"through the mof". He also mit that we can no longer cope voiced concerns about pro- with this unprecedented rise. In posed emergency measures. which include the use of a prison ship in Portland harbour, Veymouth, and the conversion of a former holiday camp in

Both schemes are being opposed by local planners. Speaking at the conference at Buxton, Derbyshire, Mr Scott

normal circumstances no one m their right mind would seriously consider the introduction of rison ships and ahandoned holiday camps as prison accommodation.

The Prison Service has reached the crossroads where policy and operations meet. Those responsible when there

cept that our prisons are full to the brim and can accept to more. Prison governors should not and will not be held accountable when this inevitable crisis occurs. There have to be measures to ensure that prison is used solely for the persistent

offender and the most serious He called for the Prison Ser-

referred to the Criminal Justice Consultative Council, a forum made up of representatives from all the agencies in the

criminal justice system.

David Roddan, secretary of the PGA, said:"Last week 134 prisoners were hused from the north of England to the south to find empty cells; that is crazy. The prison population is inereasing by up to 400 a week. We are talking about a day-to-

day struggle to find empty beds. for prisoners. The Prison Ser-. vice is chock-a-hlock. If the police had a purge on a particular kind of offender, we

couldn't cope."
Linda Jones, chairwoman of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said existing community-hased sentences should be used more widely to help alleviate the population

Widdecombe, who addresses the PGA conference today, said 8,000 new prison places were being built. "It's nothing short of a miracle that despite the huge and unprecedented in-crease in numbers, we haven't

ended up in police cells. However, it is understood the Prison Service is preparing to use 1,200 police cells in England and Wales.

The ultimate prison visitor achieves her magic number

Kim Sengupta

Ann Widdecombe arrived yesterday at Spring Hill prison, near Aylesbury. Buckinghamshire, on the final leg of her mission to visit

every prison in the country. Spring Hill, set in 190 acres of rolling hills and farmland, cannot be said to suffer from overcrowding. In fact, it is one inmate short of full capacity, 210, A relatively pleasant venue for the Home Office Minister's 129th, and final call. Still, no one was quite sure yesterday why she should embark on such an odyssey in the first place. One prison official posited, souto voce, a possible explanation; "Well you do get football nuts who wish to visit every league ground in the land."

That is not to say Ms Widdecombe was not made welcome. To mark her achievement, prison officials presented her with a commemorative cake stating

*129 - Widdecombe whirlwind tour 1995-1997." But the cake did nothing to sweeten the minister's hardline views on crime and punishment. She said protests from governors and prison officers about a system at breaking point would not deter the Government from going ahead with the Crime Bill. expected to mean an increase in the prison population. Asked if there would be a

rethink about the use of custodial sentences, she said: Certainly not. We shall be building more prisons instead. There will be a dozen more prisons needed to cope and we shall build them. There is a prison ship due to arrive. and we are also looking at a

number of other options. The Prison Governors Association know very well that we haven't been idle. We have produced 8.000 more places, we are trying to find other sites. We have had setbacks, and obviously they are unwelcome. We have had problems with the former holiday camp, and we shall

probably appeal on that."

Ms Widdecombe admitted that the lack of space may lead to more use of police cells, but added: They are relatively expensive, and not a satisfactory solution. We do not want to use them on a

long-term basis. During the walkahout the minister listened to the views of inmates and staff. One prisoner complained about the food and said with a grin he would prefer steak and chips. Her aides, mindful of allegations - vigorously denied - that the Home Secretary's wife. Sandra, had said prisoners got "more than they deserved", would not be drawn. Ms Widdecombe was unfazed and simply promised:
"I'll pass that on to Michael



Inside life: Ms Widdecombe meeting an inmate who is nearing the end of his sentence at Spring Hill prison, near Aylesbury

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Cruel sea claims two fishermen

Kate Watson-Smyth

Coastguards searching for the three-man crew of a missing trawler recovered two hodies yesterday. The deaths came as an inquiry was launched into the . Cornwall, after contact was lost disappearance of another fishing boat: the search for which was delayed for several hours

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after a mix-up over distress which took them to RAF St

The bodies of two men from the St Ives-based Gorah Lass were picked up by lifeboats searching off Portreath, north early yesterday morning. They were spotted near wreckage

and transferred to a helicopter

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Mawgan, near Newquay, while the search for the third crew, member continued.

Mick Quinn, senior watch officer for Falmouth Coastguards. said: "It was flat calm and there was some fog, but we don't think that was the cause." He said the search would continue until nightfall and then the situation would be reconsidered.

Meanwhile an official from the Marine Accident Investi- search would continue.

in Aberdeen last night to investigate why the search for a missing trawler and her fourman crew was delayed for eight

Debris from the Arbroath West Haven was found yesterday 100 miles north-east of Aberdeen but there was no sign of the four fishermen. A coastguard spokesman said that no life rafts had been seen, but the

The Fire-ants

By Glyn Maxwell

Look who was standing in a loaf of ants Eight seconds, whose attempt at a kick-dance Was excellent, whose trainer was alive on close inspection and whose sock a hive, Who gripped the air! - The guide got there and thumped My trailing foot until the blighters jumped And fell. Fire-ants, they were, like scraps of earth, Conferring as they dropped, reporting death To the workers who not looking went it's not To which was added if it is, so what? By the intelligentsia of the nest, Whose task it is to quibble and know best.

Mine was to bop one-legged for a while Until the guide stood up with the right smile. Good to have got out quickly, was his gist. I didn't disagree. That was some dust Had come alive. The guide was moving off, So I trod some half a dozen into scuff Then lightly squatted down to see them cope With coming to this pass. I saw one grope And topple out intact and crab around in chaos till it found its proper ground, Then drag away, infemally askew A dance it isn't, what we have to do.

(Upon inadvertently stepping into a fire-ants' nest, mid jungle, and receiving much pain as a consequence.)

The programmes that Glyn Maxwell and Simon Armitage made about their excursion to Amazonia, Bania and Beyond, continue this week on BBC Radio 3 until Friday, at 9.20pm (9.35pm

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Oriental chic: A model shading John Galliano's delicate embroidered blossoms at Christian Dior's 1997-98 ready-to-wear show in Paris yesterday Photograph: Ben Elwes

Serial sex attacker poised to strike again, police fear

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A serial sex attacker is preying on women in the West Midlands and is believed to have assaulted at least 21 victims in the past three months.

Detectives fear that the man. who frequently uses a knife to terrorise his targets, will strike again soon.

In a large number of the cases, he has grabbed his victim from behind, uften from a bus stop, or off the street, and taken her to a quiet spot before attacking and robbing her. Some of the women have suffered serious sexual assault and are deeply traumatised.

He is believed to be responsible for at least 18 separate attacks in Birmingham and in Kidderminster, in Hereford and Worcester. The youngest

victims were 15 years old.

A team of 40 officers is trying to track down the serial criminal and a reward of £1.000 has been offered. Detective Chief Inspector Trevor Swingler, who is beading Operation Blackpool said: "We need to catch this man before he attacks anybody else."

The attacker often uses a craft knife with a retractable hlade during the assaults.

A police spokesman said: He frequently approaches people from behind with a knife and puts his hands over their mouths and then attacks



2 December, Spm. 16 year old dragged into park in Harborns and independy associated. Consistence Day, Spm. 15 year old, nobbed in Surcon Coldifield. 28 December, 10pm, 17 year old girl, forced into bus shelter and sexually associated and robbed in Shirley. Solitudi

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and saturally assaulted and robbed in Shirley. Solitudi.

18 January, 5.30pm, 17 year old, Kloderminister, morey demanded but ran off.

18 January, 5.50pm, 20 year old, 5.20 taken.

Toro, 40 year old, indecently assaulted.

two 13 year olds fought with their assaultent and one suffered a stight wound to her hand before escaping.

19 January, 19 year old socoed onto nearby gressiand robbed and undecently assaulted in Barriey Green.

28 January, 5pm, 32 year old, noticed in Sally Dak.

20 January, 5pm, 32 year old, noticed in Sally Dak.

20 January, 10pm, two girls forced them into an alley and indecently assaulted in Normfield.

6 February, 6.30pm, 18 year old, purse stolen at knifepoint as pets off bus.
6 February, 7 30pm, 20-year-old, torbed to go to a walkway in Erdington, where seriously sexually associated and robbed.
6 February, two 15 year olds, pushed to the ground at a cus shelter in Weoley Castle, Disturbed by a motionist and ran off.
19 February, 6pm, 16 year old, independy associated and robbed in Isomrifield, behind a block of maisonaties.
21 February, 8.25pm, 15 year old, siezed white waring 31 a bus stop Sosinali Robbed and independy assaulted.
2 March, 43 year old woman was attacked from behind and robbed at knife point in Harberne.
2 March, 3pm, 24 year old, attacked at bus stop in Edgbasten, Woman punched in face before man flees. 6 February, 6.30pm, 16 year old, purse stolen at knifepoint as

Harborne, Birmingham, and her money snatched. was dragged into a park where she was indecently assaulted.

Other victims include a girl

The first attack is believed to aged 17 who was approach by have taken place on the evening a man with a knife while she was nf 2 December, when a 16-year- waiting in a bus shelter in Soliold girl was grabbed from be- hull on 28 December. She was hind by a man while she was forced into the shelter and sexwalking along the road in ually assaulted before having

In one evening, on 18 January, in Kidderminster, five women were anacked at knife-

point. They included a 40-yearold who was indecently assaulted and an 18-year-old who was cut on the hand.

On 19 January, the attacker ran up behind a woman aged 19 at Bartley Green, Birmingham. and forced her onto nearby grassland where she was robbed and indecently assaulted.

Two girls were threatened by a man with a craft knife on 20 January while they were walking in Northfield. Birmingham. The man forced them into an alley and then indecently assaulted them, before fleeing.

Two 15-year-old girls were assaulted by a knifeman while waiting at a bus shelter in Weoley Castle, Birmingham, They were pushed to the ground and threatened. However, the attacker was disturbed by a motorist and ran off.

A In-year-old walking in Northfield was threatened and forced behind a block of maisonettes where she was indecently assaulted and robbed

Two days later a 15-year-old girl was seized and threatened with a knife while she was waiting at a bus stop in Solihull. She was robbed and indecently

assaulted. The last reported incident happened on 2 March when a 17-year-old girl, walking bome in Bournville, Birmingham, was forced into a nearby park at knifepoint and sexually as-

saulted and robbed. The attacker is usually described as a white man, between 5ft bin and 5ft 10in, aged in his late twenties or early thirties, of stocky build, and wearing a baseball cap, a dark homber

jacket, jeans, and training shoes. Anyone with information about the attacker should contact the West Midland police on 0121 o26 4123.

Low-paid to get court 'entrance' fee refunds

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Thousands of people on low in- will be eligible for a refund. comes got the go-ahead for refunds of court "entrance" fees yesterday after the Government swiftly bowed to last Fri-day's High Court ruling that

new regulations were unlawful. Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, said that he would not attempt to appeal the de-cision and would immediately make new orders testoring the exemption from fees for people on income support, and restoring the right of others of limited means to apply for

reductions or remissions. The orders will replace those parts of rules introduced on 15 January but declared invalid by

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the court. Anyooc who would have been eligible for exemption or remission but for the changes

Mr Justice Laws said to last week's test case that the effect of the new rules was to "bar absolutely" many people from seeking justice from the courts in a wide-ranging variety of situations.

"The right to a fair trial, which of necessity imports the right of access to the court, is as near to an absolute right as any I can envisage," he said.

The case, brought by an Essex businessman, John Witham. related only to the High Court. hut Lord Mackay went further yesterday, bringing county and family-court proceedings within the scope of the order.

But a spokeswoman said he "remains concerned about the potential injustice where litigants in person, who are exempted or temitted from court fees, hring unjustified actions against defendants who must then pay to defend themselves with oo prospect of recovering

This judgment implies that this must be a matter for Parliament to regulate and the Lord Chancellor will consider

it further in that light." Nothing in the judgment or the new orders will affect the steep rises in court fees introduced by the rules, which raised the High Court fee from £100 to between £120 and £500 and those in other civil cases from herween 50 and 150 per cent.

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There's an adaptation of an old Tommy Cooper joke about a man who, whenever be looked up, got a paio in his neck and the doctor said the cure was never to look up. In Ghent the quack would have said "look up", the paio was worth it.

Look up and say ahh

Standing in front of St Bavo's Cathedral with its imposing Gothic style tower and looking up rowards The Belfry you can see examples of 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th ceorury Flemish architecture. Go down to the quays or walk along the canals and you can see guild and warehouses daring from the 1100's. Bur the ancient is commoo in Ghent; in fact it has more historic buildings than any other Flemish city including Bruges. To try to ignore them . would be murdet if nor impossible.

A painful, long drawn out affair

The people of Ghenr have never been too keen on being rold what in do which led to the odd rebellioo and rior. This somewhar interrupted construction of some of the most important buildings. The Town Hall, taking 400 years to build, is a wonderful mish-mash of styles and the magnificent Cloth Hall, started in the 1400's, was only completed early this century.

The hangings always draw the crowds

The merchants, being flush with cash, arreacted artists from all over Flanders. Without doubt the greatest example of Flemish art and one of the world's masterpieces is the "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" by Jan and Hubert

van Eyck in St Bavo's Cathedtal, But Ghent is crammed with museums and galleties exhibiting art and artifacts from the 14th century on. To attempt to view all the hangings 🗟 would kill you.

They die to get into The Counts Castle

It wasn't always the case and even the Counts of Flanders found the castle so unwelcoming they moved out leaving it as a place of execution. Nowhere was sacred, including the crypt which was used for the occasional eye gouging. Today the torture chamber is Ghents most popular sightseeing artraction.

On a short break you'd be stretched

For all its rumultuous past Ghent is a very laid-back, friendly city. On a short break it would be torture to try to do everything so spare yourself the pain; take in as much as you can handle then come back and see the rest.

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Arafat cold-shoulders Israel as tension builds over West Bank

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has instructed his officials to break off all contacts with Israel as part of the growing confrontation over the limit-ed scale of the Israeli withdrawal on the West Bank planned for this week and the building of a Jewish settlement at Har Homa in East Jerusalem.

"Israel is pushing us into a corner, making us despondent," said Mohammed Dahlan, the senior Palestinian police official in Gaza. "The street is heating up and is about to boil."

Israel announced unilaterally last week that it was pulling out of 9 per cent of the West Bank in the first stage

6 Israel is pushing us into a corner... the street is heating up and is about to boil 9

of a three-part withdrawal to be con-cluded by the middle of 1998. Palesninians say they expect to control 30 per cent of the West Bank at this stage and 90 per cent of the rest of it by the time the withdrawal ends.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is on a visit to Russia, appears to have miscalculated in much the same way he did over the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron last year by assuming Mr Arafat would be grateful for whatever he could get. Instead, the Palestinian leader has evidently decided that he has the international support to demand more.

A sign of anger in the Arah world and of growing tension between Israel and Jordan - is an angry letter sent by King Hussein to Mr Neranyahu which declares; "You are destroying the peace process and I baven't an ounce of trust in you." In the past King Hussein was the Arah leader most sympathetic to Mr Netanyahu. The Isracli leader replied:



Through the line: A Palestinian mother carrying her child past Israeli soldiers near Hebron yesterday

"There is no place for this criticism and

Already there are signs of increasing violence. A 19-year-old soldier at an Isracli settlement near Hebron was stabled more than 20 times yesterday. Earlier 10 Palestinians were injured by Israeli soldiers as they demonstrated against the construction of a road to be used by settlers, also near Hehron.

Mr Netanyahu is adamant that he will not increase the extent of the Is-

raeli withdrawal above 9 per cent in the first phase. In the Hebron agreement in January the Israeli leader claimed that one of his achievements was to give Israel the right to determine the size of the area from which it would withdraw. The Oslo accords say Israel is to end the occupation of the West Bank.

This amhiguity was always likely to lead to a crisis. Mr Arafat may have decided that it is better, in the aftermath of the United Nations Security Council vote by 14 to one against the building of Har Homa, to force a battle with Mr Netanyahu now, rather than wait. President Bill Clinton said in Washington that the American veto of the UN resolution should not be interpreted as meaning that the US supported settlements, but he added that the Palestinians would be making a "terrible mistake" if they resorted to violence. Palestinian leaders were angered by Israel's unilateral decisions on the West Bank and

on Har Homa. Yasser Abed Rabbo, one of their negotiators, said after meeting with Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister; "... the Israelis don't want to talk. They just want to dictate terms."

Israeli analysts are unclear how far Mr Arafat intends to go in bringing relations with Israel to crisis. They fear, however, that the start of construction at Har Homa next weekend may provoke violence - whatever the intentions of the Palestinian leader.

significant shorts

Missile 'evidence' for flight TWA800 crash Investigators into the crash last July of flight TWA800

have seized a videotape that could support claims that the aircraft was downed by a missile in either a terrorist attack or in a friendly-fire missiap.

The FBI was granted a subpoens for the seizure late on Monday by a District Court in New York. The tape, which Monday by a District Court in New York. The tape, which is likely to be viewed by a federal grand jury today, belonged to a former United Airlines pilot, Richard Russell. It is believed to show radar images of some object burtling towards the aircraft just before it exploded, killing all 230 aboard. Officials insist they have found no evidence that a missile struck the plane. They have dismissed a report published earlier this week in a California necessaries the Press Engagency describing what it said was newspaper, the Press-Entappine, detailing what it said was new evidence that a missile penetrated the fuselage: Mr Russell, who assisted the newspaper's reporting, yesterday denounced the confiscation of his tape. They took my property away, but that's the way they operate. It's a cover-up," he said.

David Usborne - New York.

Human cloning 'unacceptable'

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday that any use of cloning techniques to create identical humans was unacceptable and suggested that experiments in this direction should be banned. Reuters — Ganeva

Radioactive fire in Japan

Japan's nuclear-power program suffered another embarrassment last night when fire broke out at a nuclear waste-handling facility. It was the second fire within 10 hours at the facility. No one was injured, but officials said the first fire exposed-10 of the 50 workers present to tiny amounts of radiation.

International editor of the year

Salima Ghezali of the Algerian weekly newspaper La. Nation has been chosen as the World Press Review's International Editor of the Year for her coverage of fighting between Algeria's military-backed regime and Islamic militants.

AP - New York

US found spying in Germany

German officials confirmed yesterday that a United States diplomat had tried to recruit an official in Germany's Economics Ministry as a spy for Washington. The news magazine Der Spiegel reported at the weekend that the US pulled a CIA employee from its Bonn embassy after he was accused of spying, a first in post-war US-German

Time stands still for France

France failed to convince the rest of Europe to abandon the ritual which puts clocks forward an hour every March to give longer, lighter summer evenings. European Union ministers voted fourteen to one to retain the time change although they offered France the concession of a review of the legislation in 1999. Katherine Butler - Brussels

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Beer town feels distinctly flat as brewers bottle out

Winter is many months old and the ice on the Milwaukee river is fractured and grubby. Appropriately, it is also strewn with empty beer bottles. This, after all, is Beer Town USA. If you think cars in Detroit and cigars in Havana, then what comes to mind in this city will

forever be the hrown stuff. Or will it? They are still drinking quantities of heer here and a few folk are still making it. But these days the people of Milwaukee are mostly crying in it. Two of the city's greatest breweries. Schlitz and Pabst, are no more. Only Miller remains.

The beer heritage of Milwaukee, which sits on Lake Michigan, 100 miles north of Chicago, dates back to the early 1800s when beer-loving Germans were settling here at the rate of a thousand a week. By the century's end, brewing provided more jobs than any other industry. Beer was the fuel that huilt this still-handsome town and nourished families through generations.

Suds and sausage remain etched in the Milwaukee's heart, (For the latter, J recommend Usinger's Famous Sausage in the heart of downtown). Laverne and Shirley of the television sitcom of the same name - still in re-runs here worked in the fictional Schotz brewery. The city's beloved hasehall team, the Brewers, is soon to get a new bome; it will be called Miller Stadium.

It was Schlitz that dreamed up the legendary slogan: "The beer that made Milwaukee famous." But then, in the early 1980s, after selling out to rival Stroh, Schlitz split. Left behind was a huge and ornate

now been converted into highpriced apartments. It was Jerry Lee Lewis

among others who sang. "What made Milwaukee famous has made a loser outta me". Now Milwaukee is the loser. Even Old Milwaukee, a dark beer that remains popular country-wide, is hrewed in Detroit Miller, founded in 1880 as the Plank Road Brewery, is owned by Philip Morris, the out-of town conglomerate that gives also us Kraft cheese and the Marlboro

The latest agony, however, has been delivered by Pabst. Although its brand may be obscure internationally, Pabst was the city's first major brewery after its foundation by German immigrants in 1840, only four years after the creation of the Wisconsin Territory. By the late 1880s, with Captain Federick Pabst at its bead, Pabst had become the largest selling beer in the nation. Pabst Blue Ribbon actually bad blue ribbons on its

bottles. In this century. Blue Ribbon grew into the beer of choice for hlue-collar workers in the Midwest and especially in this heavily blue-collar city. With its blackened bricks and crenellated walls, the Pahst brewery lonms from a hill above downtown like a Dickensian jail. A single chimney rises from the plant's heart with Pabst spelled out in white ceramic tiles.

Today, the plant is empty. Lorry trailers with the Blue

town-centre brewery that has to some of the loading bays but a notice in the door of the gift shop and public beer garden says tersely: "Tours suspended until further notice." A few bulbs are burning inside, but the

brewery is silent. The end came in December last year. Pabst's owners since 1985, the S&P Corporation of California, contracted out the

6 They didn't just kill a bunch of jobs at a

brewery ... They killed a family 9

hrewing of Blue Ribbon and closed its Milwaukee facility. Almost 300 jobs were lost as well as the health insurance of 700 former employers. Gone also was a bit of Milwaukee's civic soul. Wayne Watkins, a Pabst employee of 28 years, ex-plains: "They didn't just kill a bunch of jobs for brewery work-ers. They killed a family.

The feeling of betrayal is palpahle. Straight after the announcement, bars across the city held "drink it or dump it" Pabst nights to exhaust their stocks of Blue Ribbon. Few establishments will serve it now. Even in the posh Pfister Hotel, Ribbon logo are still backed up a request for a Pabst earns a

look of disgust. "We don't serve it any more," the server replies. That company is cvil".

The anger extends to the office of the Mayor, John Norquist. With photographs hehind his desk of himself downing beers with supporters, he reasons that the US, unlike Europe, does not practice industrial policies that might have given Pabst a prop to stay open. I press him, however. Was he a Pabst drinker before? Certainly. Will he drink it now? Cer-

Proud natives urge me, how-ever, to visit one of the microhreweries that have recently mushroomed across the city. The big breweries may he leav-ing, they insist, but the brewing spirit of Milwaukee still lives.

I am happy to comply with a stop at a micro-brew restaurant called Rock Bottom, on the banks of the river. In the converted hails of an abandoned bank, Rock Bottom serves some ales brewed on-site that are delicious. I am puzzled, however, by the giant photographs on the walls of landscapes from the American West - Colorado peaks and sunsets in Utah.

Rock Bottom, I discover, is about right. This place has nothing to do with Milwaukee and its proud history of hrewing. What it does represent is the slow homogenisation of America. It is the one-formulafor-all, shopping-mall princi-ple. Rock Bottom is just one more outlet of a company based in Boulder, Colorado and listed on the Nasdaq securities exchange. Poor Captain Pabst. How he must be spinning in his

media experts

Hong Kong

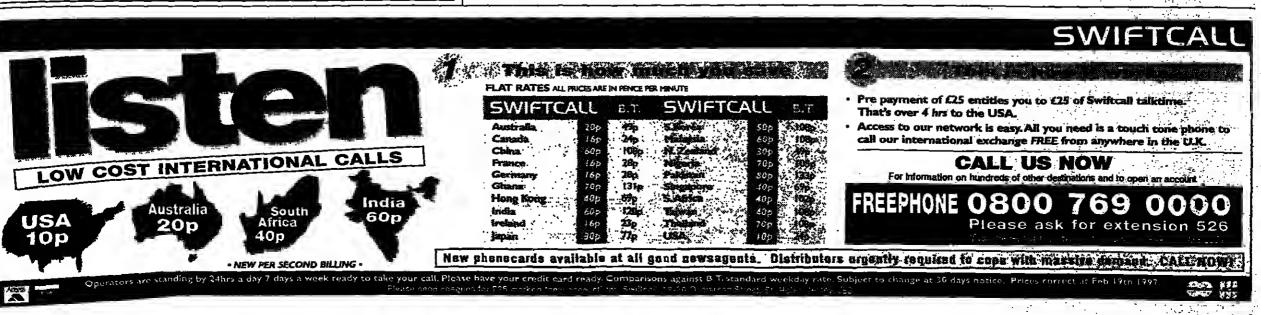
frene Yau, who headed the information department of Chris Patten's Hong Kong administration until yesterday, will start work today sorting out the rather chaotic media relations of Tung Chee-hwa, who will head Hong Kong's first post-colonial government.

Announcing the appoint-ment yesterday, Mr Tung said that Mrs Yau would be of "immense value" to his office, which has become notorious for its unresponsive media rela-

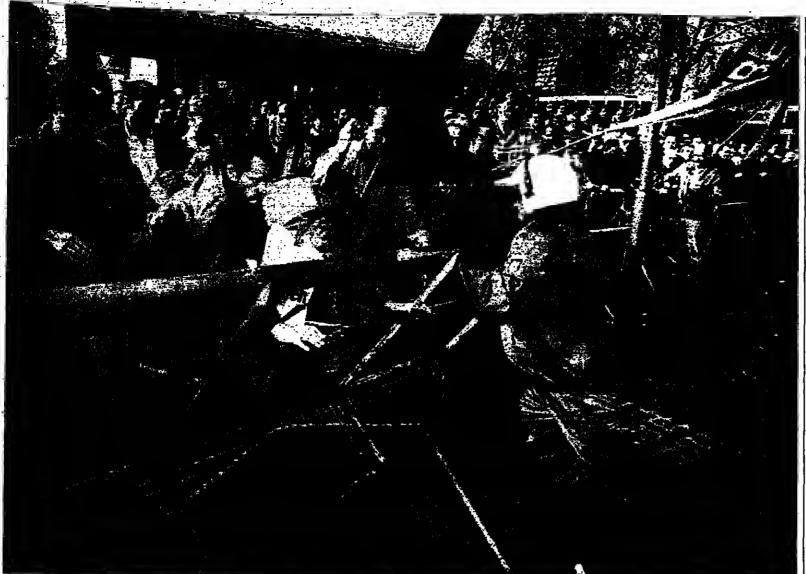
Mrs Yau, a veteran government media official who has good relations with the media, will bead a new team that largely consists of other former government information officers. She was due to retire, but has been pressed back into service.

Mr Tung has made it clear that he intends to focus most of his media effort on the local press. But he broke the ice with the foreign media by giving an interview to CNN television. Foreign reporters requesting interviews have been asked to submit any articles written about the new chief executive for verting.

As well as appointing Mrs Yau, Mr Tung has managed to second Michael Suen, the Secretary for Home Affairs, to oversee policy co-ordination. Mr Patten originally refused to allow his policy secretaries to be seconded, but has relented in the face of the overwhelming pressure from civil servants who want to join the new order.



هكذا من الأصل



Manning the barricade: A police officer trying to push back a barrier broken down by protesting miners in the government district in Bonn Photograph: AFP

Angry miners fail to move king Kohl

Imre Karacs .

nce' for crash

42 Commence

in Japan

in Germany

for France

Tung calls in

media

experts

The bell tolled for Helmut Kohl, rung by angry miners as they impaled an effigy of the Chancellor on the fence outside his office in Bonn. "Come out, you coward," screamed 10,000 burly men, but the man moun-

tain remained unmoved. He would not let himself be intimidated in this way, he said, cancelling a face-to-face meet-

peaceful gathering turned ugly. A group of miners made a dash A group of miners made a dash "We stay here," they chant-people, then the people must go towards the chancellery, scar-ed. "We want work." It took the to him." he intoned. That went

tering the thin green line of diminutive traffic police who had thought they had come for a picnic. A detachment of 6ft tall body builders in riot gear rushed forward to stop the breach, only to be outflanked at another barrier a hundred yards away,

About 100 protesters pushed against the barricade and broke through, shattering the window of nne police van and hurling eggs at the officers. The disciplined union members ing with union leaders. The message was communicated to Ignoring the pleas of shop stew-Hans Berger, head of the min-ers' union, and relayed to the demonstrators by megaphone. At a stroke, the mood of the comment district where no demonstrator had ever trod.

leader of the Greens, Josepha Fischer, to calm them down. Mr Fischer, no fan of fossil fuel himself, strolled casually into the melée from his office near hy, and dispensed pacifist advice to anybody who would care to listen. "What the chancellery has done is a provocation," he said, "but you should not swallow the hait." The miners applauded

coal's fiercest enemy, and evenmally moved away. Government politicians, meanwhile, were under siege in their offices, giving the opposi-tion a monopoly to milk the crowd. Up popped Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democ-rats' parliamentary leader. "If Herr Kohl will not go to the

down well, Union bosses had enjoy the wholehearted apparently done a deal with Mr only verbal - support of the Kohl to take their supporters opposition, who feel obliged to home and return to Bonn alone demonstrate solidarity by cripfor the final talks about pit clopling the government's legisla-

تعكذا من الأصل

The Social Democrats, who run the coal regions and will shoulder a large proportion of subsidies under the new regime, walked out of talks with Mr Kohl over tax reforms in protest at the cuts. Without their backing, he is in danger of becoming a lame-duck chancellor for the rest of his tenure.

Bonn wraps Emu resolve in pragmatism

Imre Karacs

Yvette Cooper

The German government never tires of assuring the public that European monetary union will go ahead as scheduled in January 1999. Calling for a delay, it keeps warning its own friends, might become a selffulfilling prophecy.
"A debate about postpone-

ment leads nowhere," Theo Waigel the Finance Minister, reiterated yesterday. Nevertheless, that is the debate that Germany has got, fuelled by various scenarios emerging from leaky government departments. For, while they bave been as-

suring Germans that postponement was not an option, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's aides have been busily planning escape routes. Version one, the meltdown scenario, foresees a day in the not-too-distant future when Bonn might bave to cancel the project.

The result would be a leap in the value of the German mark, currently kept low by expecta-tions that it will give way to somewhat softer money. Other currencies, notably the lira, would no longer be beld afloat by the mark, and would collapse.

While speculators would double their fortunes overnight, there would be a political fallout, Several European countries that have worked hard for years to come up to German standards, would rightly blame Germany for

ruining their economies. To avert this catastrophe, German officials have devised wbat they think is a wonderful compromise; monetary union would start on 1 January 1999 as scheduled, but "only on pa-per". Exchange rates of partic-

ipating currencies would be ating on schedule but the decilocked together gradually, starting with the most stable - the mark, French franc, Austrian schilling and Dutch guilder and bringing in the other coun-

tries as they make the grade. For the first year, therefore. the European Central Bank would only pretend to set interest rates and monetary targets across the core group. Its real work would begin a year

Theo Waigel: 'Debate about

later than planned in 2000. The beauty of this arrangement is that it would give the likes of Italy and Spain an extra 12 months to put their houses in order. The delay would be justified by commercial interests: Shops have long been complaining that the current transitional period, during which they will have to juggle two cur-

rencies, is too long.
The final deadline of January 2002, when the euro is set to replace national currencies, would still be kept. There would. therefore, be no postponement, as Mr Kohl might well be arguing this time next year. Emu institutions could begin opersion about which countries are members would be delayed.

Eric Fishwick of Nikko Europe said: "It is even possible that other countries could go ahead without Germany, so long as Germany is committed to joining pretty quickly. The Germans might see that as a better alternative to fudging the Maastricht criteria given the symbolic significance attached to the

criteria in Germany now."

But James Mitchell of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "Germany is seen as the anchor of Europe. Emu can't go ahead without Germany.

However, public debate in Germany has taken "a pronounced anti-Emu turn, cording to the Director of the Bonn based Centre for European Integration Research. Speaking in London yesterday to a meeting organised by the Centre for European Policy Research, Jurgen von Hagen said: "EMU has never been popular in Germany. The move towards a single currency relied on two assumptions: that Germany would make the Maastricht criteria and that the German government could persuade the public to give up the Deutschmark. Both assumptions are now in doubt."

Mr von Hagen said that only 8 per cent of the German population believed there would be economic benefits from joining a single currency. However, the Kohl government had, he said, been extremely successful in equating monetary union and European integration. He said: "There is a long tradition in Germany: you can be anything, but you can't be against European integration. That is

Nato growth to cost £20bn

funding Nato's expansion into central and eastern Europe. according to researchers. The British-American Security Information Council (Basic), a non-governmental organisa-tion, said its estimate was based on figures supplied by the Clinton administration to Congress

in a report last month. It was one of the first efforts at calculating the financial cost . of Nato enlargement to Britain, traditionally one of the main paymasters of the alliance. The question for Ken Clarke and Gordon Brown is, will the £200m a year for Natn expansion be paid for by cutting other defence items, by cutting domestic spending or by in-

creasing public borrowing?" Daniel Plesch, Basic's director,

Britain will have to pay about Concern about the financial £200m a year as its share of and diplomatic costs of Nato enlargement has risen in the United States and Western Europe since the alliance announced last year that it was set-ting a target date of 1999 for embracing new members. One of this century's most highly respected US diplomats, George Kennan, bas questioned the need for enlargement, as have an increasing number of com-mentaries in influential US and

German newspapers.
The Clinton administration report to Congress indicated that the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and perhaps Slovenia were expected to become Nato's newest members. It estimated the cost of expansion at \$27bn-\$35bn (£16.9bn-£21.9bn)

Out of this figure, Nato's Euwould be expected to pay \$12.5bn-\$15.5bn, with the US and the new member-states picking up the difference. According to Basic, Britain's individual contribution over the next 13 years would be \$3.24bn-\$4.02bn - a figure derived from the fact that, after excluding the US con-

cent of Nato's budget in 1994. Based on an exchange rate of \$1.50 to the pound, the cost to Britain over 13 years would therefore be £166m-£206m a year. If the present exchange rate of \$1.60 to the pound is used, the bill falls to an annual £156m-£193m.

tribution, Britain paid 25.93 per

Some of the main costs associated with Nato enlargement are those of making the com-

nications systems of new mem ber-states compatible with those of existing members. Military strategists say it will also be nec essary to upgrade the equipment of new members, especially that of their ground forces.

sures tomorrow.

they were.

However, the troops who

had been marched up the hill

were refusing to be marched

down again. Last night large

numbers were insisting that

they would stay exactly where

ultimate confrontation between

the conservative government

and the vanguard of what is left

of the German proletariat. The miners, who fear joh losses if the government implements its plan

to halve coal subsidies, emerged

from yesterday's skirmish as the moral victors. They now

The stage is thus set for the

Despite such costs, the al-liance's official line, spelled out in Washington last Monday by Malcolm Rifkind, is that Europe will be far worse off if Nato fails would have a line down the middle of Europe, just like the Iron Curtain ... Instead, we should be doing away with the division of Europe forever," the Foreign

Secretary said. He warned that, unless Nato absorbed new members, "local and regional alliances would spring up, in a frightening fac-simile of pre-Second World War Europe".

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Yeltsin clears decks for cabinet reshuffle

Phil Reeves Moscow

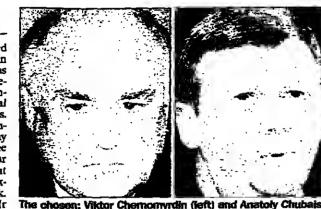
Boris Yeltsin has demanded that all but the top two men in his government should resign as a forerunner to a cabinet shakeup with which he inteods firmly to reimpose his personal authority after mooths of illness.

Dozens of ministers and other top officials were yesterday ordered by presidential decree to give in their notice to clear the way for the announcement of a new cabinet, which is ex-pected by the end of the week.

The overhaul follows Mr Yeltsin's hotly disputed decision to appoint his unpopular chiefof-staff. Anatoly Chubais, as number two in the government under the premier. Viktor Chemomyrdin. The political complexion of the new governmeot was unclear yesterday, although - to the delight of the West - Mr Yeltsin said that he intends to press ahead moves towards a free market economy.

Yesterday's decree exempted Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Chubais who are oow running the government in harness with Mr Yeltsin, giving rise to spec-ulation that Russia is on a more liberal tack. Some incumbeots seem certain to be kept oo notably. Yegeny Primakov, the Foreign Minister, who has been spearheading resistance to Nato

The Kremlin has been eyeing Russia's biggest liberal party,



pointment is a sign that Mr Yeltsin is no longer interested

peace-making. Yesterday Valentin Yuma-

shev, the journalist who ghost-

wrote Mr Yeltsin's first

autobiography, Against The

Grain, was appointed to replace

Mr Chuhais as chief-of-staff to

the president. But most eyes

were on Mr Chubais's new role.

consensus among Western in-stitutions that the arrival of

the 41-year-old St Petersburg in-

tellectual back in government indicates that Russia's political

pendulum has swuog back to-

wards free-market reforms and

tight fiscal policies. Mr Yeltsin

is generally thought to have strayed from the path at times

fast year in an attempt to

appease nationalist and anti-

Western sentiment before the

There appears to be a broad

Yabloko, although its leader.
Grigory Yavlinsky, has been
fiercely critical of Mr Yehsin and
will drive a tough bargain.
The shake-up is evidence
that Mr Yellsin is determined
to improve his green of author to impose his stamp of authority after eight mooths in which he was sidelined by ill-health, leaving policy in the hands of Mr

Chubais, the president's daugh-

ter, Tatyana, and a coalition of But it also indicated that Mr Yeltsin has all but abandooed the politics of consensus. While he was ailing. Mr Cherno-myrdin built bridges with the Communists and nationalists wbo dominate the State Duma, knowing the Kremlin might have to strike a deal with them if the president left office. But the majority of parliament de-

spises Mr Chubais, and his ap-

a conclusion is premature. Al-though Mr Chubais is a liberal economist, he is also a bardheaded pragmatist with a reputation for ruthlessness and with strong links with Russia's banking interests. Moreover, Mr Yeltsin's strategy usually has much more to do with maintaining power than ideology. As a result, government has zig-zagged along, veering from policy to policy as expediency This year, Mr Yeltsin has no

presideotial elections. But such

election to worty about, so be may try to be more consistent. This will be difficult. In his address to parliament last week he outlined an agenda which included overhauling the tax code, pensions, the budget, hous-ing subsidies, natural monopolies, and the military. But there are practical obstacles - from overwhelming red tape and corruption to powerful lobbies who have got rich quick in the oew Russia, and will resist anything that threatens their interests.

Moreover, election or not, he would be unwise to ignore the grouodswell of resentment caused by Russia's economic disarray. This bas deepeoed with the oews of Mr Chubais' appointment. He is loathed for his role in Russia's buge privatisation programme between 1992 and 1994, which many complain handed state assets over to a chosen few, at the expense of the population.



Mask of uniformity: Green Party deputies - masked to give them Identical appearance - sit in protest at the European ment, in Strasbourg, during a debate on cloning experiments yesterday

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Britons urged to flee unrest in Albania

Agencies - The Foreign Office yesterday urged all British oationals to leave Albania, as the rebellioo spread to the north of the country.

In a message broadcast on the BBC World Service, the Foreign Office said the longer the delay, the more difficult and dangerous any departure might become. Eighty to 100 British nationals are believed to be working in northern Albania. serious troubles in the south, where security has worsened.

"All British nationals should tell the British Embassy in Tirana what they intend to do," the Foreign Office said. "At the moment, most commercial airlines and ferry companies are operating oormally, hut this

may change."
It urged all British nationals to leave Albania "by the first available commercial means." The list of those in Albania included journalists, aid workers, businessmeo and "ooe or two intrepid tourists".

The British charity Childreo in Distress, which operates a childreo's hospital in Saranda, southern Albania, said that it had withdrawn all British and Irish staff. The hospital oow has no children left in its wards.

Albania's president, Sali Berisha, said yesterday that he had appointed a oew prime minister. Bashkim Fino, an ecocomist from the southern town of member of the main opposition Socialist Party, replaces Aleksander Meksi, a member of the ruling Democratic Party, who resigned last mooth as the unrest crupted.

The appointment of a member of the Socialist Party to the premiership was seen as a conessioo to the opposition, although they have little or no influence over the highly-lo-

calised rebel groups in the south.
Mr Berisha told Italy that a new government would be formed within 24 hours, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

The president, his ruling Democratic Party and nine oppositioo parties signed an accord at the weekend to establish a national unity government and hold early elections by June in an attempt to find a political so-

lution to the insurrection. Political parties in Tiraoa agreed oo Monday to split cabmet posts evenly between the Democratic Party and the osition. However, the two sides have been deadlocked on who gets the key portfolios, political sources sai

The country's armed unrest spread from the south yesterday, with residents of a major town north of Tirana saying insur-gents there have raided a military base and carted away

weapons and ammunition. A man ideotifying himself as the mayor of Bairam Curri said in a telephone call that insurgents took "a lot" of arms and munitions from the base in the town, 135 miles north of the capital, in a morning raid.

Public takes revenge as stun belt shocks convicts into line

Rupert Cornwell Washington

America's passion for marrying punishment and high technology knows few bounds. The death peoalty has been embellished with the gas chamber, the electric chair and most recently, lethal injections. Now comes another new variation on an old theme: the electrically controlled chain gang.

After a 30-year interval, shackled gangs of convicts have lately reappeared on the public highways or stone quarries of half a dozen US states - sop

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to an angry public's insistence that criminals are not only punished, but are visibly bumiliated as well. Hitherto, however, prisoners have been chained in the traditional way, either to each other, or individually by the ankies with a chain too short to allow them to run. Armed guards make sure the men do not fight

authorities in Queen Anne's

or attempt to escape. Soon, however, this technology may be obsolete. Starting next munth, the prisoo county, Maryland, 50 miles east of Washington, may send out chain gangs controlled not by

metal fetters but a fearsome device called a stun belt, that leaves its victims writhing on the

ground in agony.
Fitted to individual prisoners, the belt comes with two prongs and a battery. From 100 yards away a guard merely has to push a button to send a 50,000 volt surge for up to eight secoods through a prisoner's body. A very low amperage means the charge is not fatal. But it incapacitates for up to 10 minutes. completely overriding the neuro-muscular system and causing loss of control of blad-

der and bowels. Sum Tech Inc. the Cleveland firm which makes them, has already sold 1,100 belts to prisons and the federal marshals service. and so dreaded are they by prisooers that they have been activated on only 14 of the 30,000

occasions they have been worn. Amnesty international and other human rights groups have tried to have the belts banned as "cruel, degrading and inhu-man" and possible instruments of torture, but in vain. Not only do stun belts work, they also save money. Though they cost \$600 to \$700 (£375-437) apiece, the reduced need for guards more than recoups that outlay.



حكذا من الأصل

Chill that sundered the world into two

Fifty years ago today, a conflict that had been rumbling for years turned into a full-scale war. But this was not a normal confrontation: this was the Cold War, the ideological, military and political divide that dominated the second half of the 20th century. It fell to President Harry S

Truman to launch the US response to Soviet expansionism. after two years of growing tensions. He announced Washington would "support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures". The implications were huge; the US would abrogate the isolationism that had governed its foreign policy before the Second World War, and into which it had started to retreat; and it would join in a global conflict with the Soviet Union. "I would not recommend it except that the alternative is much more serious."

said the president. Truman's rallying cry led to Marshall aid, the huge programme of economic assistance to Europe; to the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 1949, the defence pact that linked America to Europe; and the return of US troops to Europe.

None of this was a foregone conclusion in 1947. After the Second World War ended, there had been a period of uncertainty between the West and the Sovict Union, which had been, after all, a wartime ally. America tried a variety of approaches, but Russia was aggressively promoting communism in Eastern Europe and a confrontation

was building up. Truman's words were to some extent prompted by Britain, then a major power. Britain had been providing military and economic assistance to Greece and Turkey, both threat-



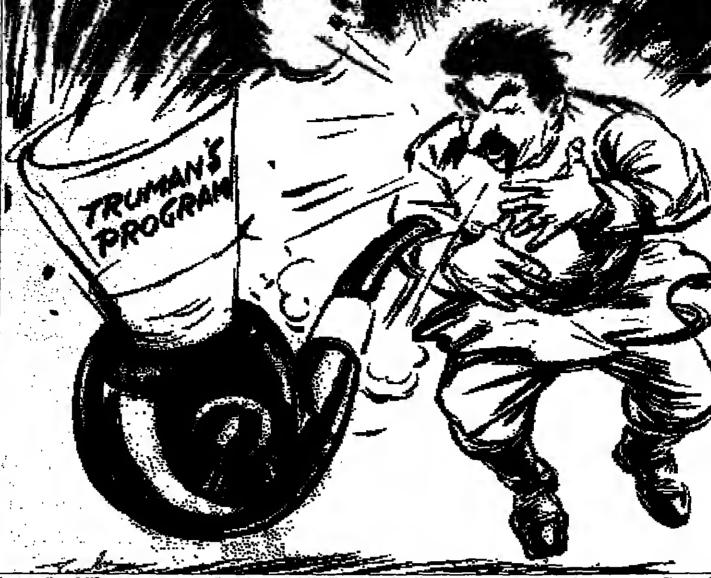
in the first of a series of articles **Andrew Marshall** looks back fifty years to Truman

by Communist subversion. But the disastrous winter of 1946-47 and Britain's economic collapse led it to withdraw this in early 1947. America was stepping in to fill the gap left by Britain, an event repeated many times over the following

The underpinnings for a tougher stance had already been laid by diplomats in Moscow who believed the Soviet Union could not be restrained in conventional diplomatic ways. George Kennan of the State Department, and Sir Frank Roberts, Britain's ambassador in Moscow, had both written long analyses of the situation, and reached similar conclusions. The result was the policy of containment, which the West maintained for

The Cold War's end has left a security vacuum in Europe. Nato is trying to fill it by ex-panding; Russia resists and wards of a new Cold War. Some in the West are warning that the new threat is China, or Islam.

forces in Europe and the transatiantic alliance, are still



Exasperation: A US newspaper cartoon from the late 1940s illustrates the US block on Soviet expansionism Picturepoint hina connection snags (

Rupert Cornwell

President Bill Clinton's former national security adviser, Anthony Lake, yesterday finally embarked on his bitterly contested and much delaved Senate confirmation hearings to he head of the Central Intelligence Agency - only to become the newest feature act in the great campaign fundraising scandal which currectly grips Washington.

From the outset, Mr Lake's path to the CIA directorship has been strewn with boulders, ranging from But no great issue has emerged to replicate the global struggle between West and East.

The institutions that flowed from Truman's speech, US

The institutions that flowed from Truman's speech, US ian Muslims in 1994.

But these objections may pale be-

handling of - or his failure to handle - the "China connection", and the warnings voiced by the FBI that Peking, directly or indirectly, was trying to channel money to the Clinton/-Gore re-election campaign and

various Congressional races in 1996.

That controversy reached feverpitch on Monday when the White House and the FBI clashed publicly over accusations that the bureau had informed the White House of its suspicions, but instructed officials on the National Security Council, chaired by Mr Lake, that the President not be told. "The President should know," Mr Clinton declared - only for the FBI to issue an astonishing public statement contradicting him, and insisting it had placed no restrictions on who should be informed of what China might be up to.

But even if Mr Lake is certain of

testimony, the fact that the hearings are even taking place is a notable victory. For two months Mr Shelby blocked them, hoping he would force Mr Clinton to withdraw the nomination. In the end, however, the Alabama Senator had to yield as several Republicans as well as Democrats insisted Mr Lake should have the

chance to plead his case. Indeed, harring major surprises, he should be confirmed. Two of the 11 Republicans on the 20-strong committee have already said they would support him, ensuring a majority, and the full Senate should follow suit.

If he does win the job, Mr Lake would be the agency's fifth director in as many turbulent years, a period which saw the devastating Ames af-fair, charges that it discriminated against women, and growing doubt on Capitol Hill whether post-Cold

The needs of the CIA, on the other hand, could not be clearer: strong. steady and stable leadership to restore battered morale and prestige, and a director who understands the world of intelligence and has unquestioned access to, and influence n, the President,

On the last two counts at least, Mr Lake qualifies without argument. Discreet as a spymaster should be, he was probably Mr Clinton's closest foreign policy adviser during his first term.

The more valid objections are

different - that Mr Lake's past involvement with policy-making render him incapable of providing the objective and sometimes unwelcome information and analysis to the White House that is the CIA's prime task, and that he tacks the management experience of running the unwieldy \$30bn bureaucracy which is the US

Post-KGB spies keep the old flag flying

Phil Reeves

It is smaller and more discreet than in its Cold War hey-day, but Russia's replacement for the KGB, broken up in 1991, is still very much in business, and has an estimated tens of thousands of employees to prove it.

Nor does it make much secret of that fact, Only a few months ago, Nikolai Kovalyov, head of the Federal Security Service, boasted that the service was monitoring 400 foreign spies

and 30 locally recruited Russian spies.

The agency, known as the FSB, has an estimated 75,000 employees which, though small when compared with the network of the KGB of 400,000 agents in the mid-Eighties, is still - a considerable force, and one which includes

Sull based at the Lubyanka in central Moscow, the security services play a dimin-ished role in the daily life of most Russians, and have switched their focus to embrace the conditions in post-Soviet Russia - for instance, the mulia, new technology, weapons-smug-gling and industrial espionage. Yet, particularly in more-backward regions, they remain powerful and occasionally intrusive.

In the past few years, there have been increasing warnings that - despite hefty hudget and staff cuts - the Russian security services are regaining their strength. The head of Germany's counter-intelligence service. Hasjoerg Geiger, last year accused Russia of espionage of Cold War proportions, claiming that KGB-type spies were working under the guise of businessmen. And British parliamentary committees have, on several occasions, complained about an increase in Russian spying. Last month MPs warned of the risk that Russians would infiltrate the security services by preving on impoverished agents.

The FSB has, however, also suffered some major setbacks, particularly in Chechnya. The security services ran the war and eventually suffered the humiliation of seeing Moscow's troops withdraw.

Its influence on the Kremlin - once huge has fallen off with the ousting of several hardline generals. Last month, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, fired the FSB's deputy director Colonel General Vasily Trofimov, accusing him of financial irregularities. He was reportedly involved in an investigation into a scandal in which two of the President's campaign officials were caught leaving the White House with \$500,000 (£312,000), just before last year's presidential election.

Shortly before that sacking came news that two FSB officers had been detained for suspected drug trafficking. Even last year's spying row with Britain was far from an outright triumph for the service; it had wanted nine British expulsions, but - under pressure from

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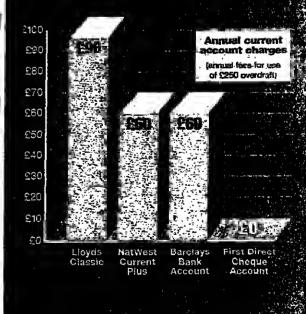
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Jean Dréville

Artists who refuse to be categorised are usually the most interesting, though they pay for their independence by a certain public and especially professional benign neglect. Such was the fiercely individual nature of a fine film director. Jean Dréville, whose utter unique-ness in the world of French cinema is equalled only by that of

Perhaps his uncompromising character was the result of hav-ing escaped the rigours of formai French education: he was a sensitive child, and his sympathetic father. Alexandre, a mining engineer but also a poet and journalist, allowed him to have private lessons at home. As a youth he was interested in art and photography, and he began his working life as a draughtsman, poster designer and pho-tographer. His father also introduced him to the profession of journalism, and in the early Twenties Jean Dreville founded three reviews of the cinematic art, of which Cinegraphie (1925-27), a counterblast to the triviality of Cine pour tous, became the first serious magazine of the cinema, not only in France, but in Europe and the world.

In a rare 1976 interview. Dréville describes the problems of early movie appreciation:

In the Twenties, people were attracted by a film's title or by a favourite actor. The director was of no importance to the general public: even great artists like Fritz Lang were not credited on posters or in reviews, that just outlined the story. Only Cecil B. DeMille ("Cecil Billet de Mille") and a few other movie tyccons were granted that privilege. But the critics in those days felt they had a duty to educate the public, and introduced technical terms like travelling [tracking shot], "subjective cinema" and fondu-enchainé (lapdissolve or cross-lade), or enthused about the first uses of flash-back.

the general public began to recognise and respect the role of directors like Abel Gance, Marcel L'Herbier and the voung Rene Clair.

Among the contributors to Cinegraphie were Alberto Cavakanti, Edmond Greville, Henri Chomette - the pseudonym of Rene Clair's younger brother, less well-known, so in-evitably nicknamed by Dreville

"Clair Obscur". The great Sur-realist poet Robert Desnos followed Dreville's example, writing hrilliant innovatory film criticism for a wide range of newspapers until his deportation and death in 1944. Indeed, nearly all the Surrealists were influenced by Dreville and created epoch-making short films and texts that used cinematic techniques of cutting

and distortion.

Jean Dréville began his einematic career by making shorts. including the first documentary about the making of a film: the 1928 Autour de l'argent. which followed the day-by-day creation of Marcel L'Herbier's L'Argent (1929). During the Thirties, he made a string of successful comedies including Touche-à-tout, whose title Dreville used as a sly reference to himself - Jack of All Trades: and, one might add, Master of

In the late Thirties films about Russia were popular. with their appeal to the Front Populaire, and Dreville cashed in with Troika sur la piste blanche (1937) and Nuits blanches de St Pétershourg (1938). In the same year, he shot a remake of Ray-mond Bernard's 1927 silent feature Le Joueur d'échecs ("The Chess Player"): Bernard was one of the directors he had praised in Cinceraphie.

more realist themes, and to war films. Nineteen forty-two saw the success of Les Affaires sont les affaires ("Business is Business"), a slyly ironic comedy about wartime profiteering. In 1945 appeared La Ferme du pendu with Arletty - one of the early films noirs. La Bataille de l'eau iourde ("The Heavy Water Bat-tle") was a smash hit in 1948, a spy thriller set in occupied Norway in documentary style, about the Allied attempts to wipe out a Nazi heavy-water factory. It is one of Dreville's most perfect films, later made into The Heroes of Telemark (1965) by Anthony Mann, with its superb location shots ruined by an insipid Hollywood "love interest". These realistic compositions led Dreville to produce some fine aviation spectaculars like Escale a Orly (1953) and Normandie-Niemen (1960). But there was always a lighter

vein of music and laughter, especially after Dréville's collaboration with the popular singer, lyricist and actor Noël-Noël, with whom he made La Cage aux rossignols ("Cage of Nightingales", 1945) and above all Les Casse pieds ("Tiresome Types", 1948), a typically sar-castic squib about the boredoms of life in high society. It won the Prix Louis-Delluc and the Grand Prix du Cinéma Français.

Dreville had always been a fan of Abel Gance, whose Napoléon he reviewed in 1927. He too made a magnificent excursion into historical films, in La Reine Margot (1954) with Jeanne Moreau, still a young starlet, as Marguerite de Valois and the unforgenable Françoise Rosay as Catherine de Médicis. Dumas' novel has a very turgid plot, hut Dreville slices through During the Second World the opacities with crisp wit. War and in the immediate post-sharp, cutting and irreverent



sising: Dréville, left, with Camille de Morihon (the film's director) and the actress Renée making Roumanie, terre d'amour, 1930 Photograph: Kevin Brownlow Collection

portraits of royalty worthy of Goya. Margot, said by Montaigne and Brantome to have been the most beautiful woman of her time, has some nude scenes; we do not, alas, see Jeanne Moreau in these, but a quite satisfactory stand-in.

The French television Canal Plus had the nerve to re-issue this masterpiece in the same week, May 1994, when Patrice

Chereau's inflated mega-project thentic historical reconstrucof the same ritle, with a sulky Isahelle Adjani, knocked the French public dead with boreencounter hands down. dom. Forty years on, the more

achieved a superb piece of au-

tion. Jean Dréville, the neglected independent, won the

James Kirkup Jean Dréville, film director: born Vitry-sur-Seine, France 20 September 1906; married secondly 1960 Veronique Deschamps (one daughter); died Vallangoujard 5

Stan Drake

Stan Drake was one of the most surprisingly versatile car-toonists in the history of the American comic strip, and at the same one of the least known by name in Britain.

His talent in drawing newspaper strips stretched from the daily soap-opera The Heart of Julies Jones to the joke-a-day domesticity of Blondie, two strips so vastly different in art technique that in appearance it seems impossible that they have stemmed from the same pen. Jay Kennedy, the current comics editor at King Features Syndicate, paid an extraordinary tribute to Drake's drawings when he said that Drake's craftsmanship was

outstanding.
"His control of the pen was so great." said Kennedy, "that you could enlarge one of his two-inch drawings to a poster the size of the door, and every nuance would be there as if he had drawn the poster that size to begin with."

Drake was born in Brooklyn in 1921, later moving with his family to New Jersey. After college he attended the Art Stu-dents League in New York where he studied anatomy under their famous tutor George Bridgman. Drake was 18 years old, but was already a published black-and-white artist turning out illustrations for the 10-cent pulp magazines Popular Detecthe and Popular Sports. He had also started to contribute strips to the ballooning comic-book mdustry, writing, drawing and lettering for the munificent sum of seven dollars per page. He also worked for the young Stan Lee, later the fabled editorial impresario of Marvel Comics but then a simple strip-

Drake joined the army just before America entered the Second World War, and was duly discharged in 1946 after active service in the Pacific theatre of war, Immediately returning to commercial art, he joined the Perlowin Advertising Agency on Madison Avenue, later transferring to the Johnstone and Cushing Agency, which specialised in producing strip-cortoon advertisements for the Sunday newspaper supplements. Success prompted him to set up his own agency in collaboration with two former cartoonist frieods from the comic-book field. Boh Lubbers and John Celardo. who would later take on

exhaustion. Wishing to try his hand at newspaper strip work, but realising that the writing of a daily serial was beyond him, he contacted Eliot Caplin. Caplin was the younger brother of the top American strip cartoonist, Al Capp, who drew the hilarious hill-hilly strip Li'l Abner. No artist, Caplin had

become an expert writer of

strips, and had created a highly popular romantic series en-titled Abbie & Sins, which was drawn by the brilliant stylist Raeburn Van Buren. This strip contained a sprinkling of con-edy, and Caplin was keen to attempt a more serious romantic drama that would latch on to the then popular soap-opera serials

of American radio.

The result, Drake drawing,
Caplin writing, was The Heart
of Julier Jones, which made its daily debut during March 1953. It opened with a record starting sale to 90 newspapers, eventually rising to over 600, and won the National Cartoonists Society Best Story Strip Award in 1969, 1970 and 1972 The sophisticated story-line was matched by Drake's artwork, which was not only realistic, but frequently used differing art techniques, including unusual tinting.
With the decline in popular-

ity of dramatic newspaper strips. Drake switched his style completely when the artwork of Blondie became available. This famous strip, created by Murat (Chic) Young in 1930, was the epitome of home spun humour.
built around the suburban family Burnstead; smart wife
Blondie, half-daft hubby Dagwood, and their kids, Baby Dumpling and Cookie. Written by the late Chic Young's son Dean, Drake illustrated the gags to perfection as belitted the most frequently filmed strip in history; 28 features between



vorld; Drake's Blondie Picture: Denis Gifford Collection

1938 and 1951. Blondie was played by the pretty actress Penny Singleton while the comedian Arthur Lake played Dagwood. Drake's expert artwork helped maintain Blondie as the highest syndicated strip in the world, touching on 2,000 newspapers a day.

Drake was an expert hohby golfer, and turned his favourite drawing instructive illustrations for Golf Digest, but he will be remembered best as a cartoonist whose talents spanned the two extremes of the strip cartoon.

Denis Gifford

Stanley Drake, cartoonist: born New York 9 November 1921: died Norwalk, Connecticut 10 March

Wilf Wooller

Wilf Wooller was a sportsman pur excellence who displayed, on and off the field of play, a combative spirit shot through with self-belief. An all-rounder, he was capped 18 times for Wales at rugby. He captained Glamorgan County Cricket Club for more than a decade, played soccer briefly for Cardiff City and represented Wales at squash. During the 1960s and 1970s

his uncompromising support for keeping sporting links with South Africa when apartheto was at its most intense sat uneasily with Wales's tolerant culture - a culture made real by the rich ethnic mix of African. Somali and Chinese communities in Cardiff's docklands. Yet, in print and on the air. he never wavered in propounding a point of view some felt gave aid and comfort to an enemy.

Wooller was a man of charm and a man of arrogance. He was



born at Rhos-on-Sea on the North Wales coast and attended Llandudno County School and Rydal School, one of Wales's few public schools. where a shrewd rugby coach switched him from the pack to the hack division. At Cambridge he took a degree in Anthroploogy and won three rug-by Blues in 1933 to 1935 and cricket Blues in 1935 and 1936. He was a key member of

Wales's three-quarter line, mak-ing his debut in 1933 when his country won at Twickenham for the first time in more than 20 years, He captained Wales in the 1939 clash with "the old enemy" when Wales won by a solitary try. His role in Wales's 13-12 victory over New Zcaland in 1935 was decisive; injury had reduced wates to 14 - no replacements were permitted in those days - but his shrewd kicking led to two tries that scaled an historic victory.

On the cricket field he swung the hall worryingly, hatted tena-ciously and excelled as a close fielder at a time when proteclive gear was almost nonexistent. He first took the field for Glamorgan in 1938 and played his last match for the county 24 years later. He captained the side from 1947 to 1960, with 1948 a golden year when Glamorgan won the County Championship for the first time. He became secretary of Glamorgan County Cricket Cluh in 1961 and was elected president 30 years later. Al-though never called up for service with England he was a Test.

with the round ball game as cen-1939 and he played squash for the national leam.

At the start of the Second World War, together with friends from Cardiff's rugby fraternity, he enlisted as a gun-ner with the 77th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. In 1940 - the days of the "Phoney War" - he turned out for an Army XV which beat France at the Parc des Princes; he declared the side as he had married into an op-

(to which he contributed three tries) as one of the best he had ever played in. Posted to the Far East, he was

modest resources of Jean Dréville and a fine cast of sup-porting actors, including Daniel

Ceccaldi as a sissy Duc d'Anjou

and an already over-acting, gri-macing Luis de Funès as René

captured; by the Japanese in Java in 1942 and incarcerated in Singapore's notorious Changi prison. For a while he worked on the Burma railway, a hardship to which many prisoners of war succumbed. He owed his selector from 1955 to 1961. survival to his iron will, but the
There was a hrief flirtation experience left a deep mark: years later he was reported to made pocket calculator.

As a hroadcaster and sports writer Wooller was outspoken. occasionally to the point of giving offence. The mother of one Welsh rugby international sent him a pair of spectacles after he had criticised her son for being caught out of position. The corrective lenses were returned with the comment that,

with almost religious fervour. He and Peter Hain, who successfully led opposition to the involvement of South African

tician's practice, he could see

a more political nature on the

media - particularly on the Welsh media which covers sport

There were other clashes of

perfectly well.

rugby teams in Britain, coofronted each order publicly on the Tarzan strip. The volume many occasions. Nothing excits for work was so great that, ed him, more than debating despite enlarging the agency to controversial views which he: 12 artists, Drake quit from defended as ruthlessly as he captained Glamorgan. He believed - on and off the field in order and discipline. Tony Heath

Wilfred Wooller, sportsman and commentator: born Rhos-on-Sea 20 November 1912; married 1948 Enid James (three sons, two daughters); died Cardiff 10

Jean-Dominique Bauby

A voice reaches us, crying out from the dcpths of a profound silence: "I am alive, I can think. and no one has the right to deny me these two realities . . . "

The words were conveyed by a flicker of the left evelid and come from a truly extraordinary book, Le Scaphandre et le papillon ("The Deep-sea Diver and the Butterfly") by a former journalist, Jean-Dominique Bauby. He worked for journals like the Quotidien de Paris and Paris Match and for four years until December 1995 was the very successful chief editor of

Then the unthinkable happened. A cardiovascular accident paralysed him and sent him into a deep coma, from which he emerged 20 days later in the pointed to them on a screen:

Höpital Maritime al Berck, on the north-east coast of France. his brain intact, but able only to blink his left eyelid. He was di-agnosed as suffering from the rare disease called "Locked-in Syndrome", unable to breathe.

swallow or eat without assistance. In this inert body, the brain was working furiously, with a mixture of rage, exasperation and wild humour, trying to make people understand what he was thinking. With the helo of a specialised nurse, Claude Mendihil, despatched by the publisher Robert Laffont, he was able to write his book, using only his ability to blink at the most frequently used letters of the alphabet - E. S. A. R. L. N. T and so on, while Mendihil

one hlink for "yes", two blinks for "no". He would spend most of the

night editing his thoughts and composing sentences, which he memorised so that when Mendibil arrived in the morning he could dictate the latest instalment to her in a succession of blinks. The man's courageous spirit and the passionate tracking of a good story were combined in this supreme journalistic effort to produce a book whose vivid title describes the immohile state of his body (the deep-sea diver in one of those heavy old-fashioned diving suits) and the state of his mind, fluttering like a rare butterfly from letter to letter, from word to word, page to page to the end of a book of just over 100 pages.

One would expect from this their capers have to be process a stiff factual report, but that is not the case. The book reads in flowing images that illuminate his predicament and enlighten our own darkness in the face of this mystery. The style is clear and fresh, and not without elegance, imagination and shafts of humour. One of the beauties of the book is the portrait that emerges of the attentive speech therapist who does her best to teach him to relearn letters and syllahles. There are hleak pictures of the wintry beach at Berck Plage, a melancholy symbol of his own sense of desertion. In his hypersensitive condition, each sound becomes unhearable. meaningless noise, and when his two sons come to visit him

endured with saintly patience. He is also in search of past time, of memory itself, of the books he has read, the poems he learnt by heart; even more sad, he thinks of all the books he wanted to read and hadn't done so. He has to listen to someone else reading them to him. He remembers a bet he lost at a racetrack, one of the many flashes of wry humour in his book. Above all, he remembers his life as a journalist, as an editor, with its agonies and disappointments, his sense of being exploited by the media, vct his desire, in his post as editor of Elle, to do something for the rights of women, to help them free themselves from various tyrannies.

March 1996 that the appli-cants Hassan Hussein Adan

and Lool Isaak Nooh, both of

whom had fled from ethnic con-

flict in Somalia, were not enti-

tled to refugee status. At the

same time the court dismissed

appeals against the tribunal's

decisions on 22 January 1996

and 7 May 1996 that Boban

Lazarevic and Zoran Radivo-

jevic, hoth Serbian draft-evaders who had fled from

former Yugoslavia to avoid the

fighting, and who were cur-rently unable to return there,

Nicholas Blake QC and Raza Husain

(Wilson & Co. Tottenham) for Adan and Nooh; lun Lewis (Sucovic & Har-

tigan, Acton) for Lazarevic and Radi-

vojevic; David Pannick QC and Mark

Shaw (Treasury Solicitor) for the

were not refugees.

Home Secretors:

All this is admirably conveyed in a documentary about Bauby's last year made with scrupulous care and great sensitivity by Jean-Jacques Beineix, already programmed before his death to be shown on the weekly literary television programme Bouillon de Culture, directed by Bernard Pivot, Guests are journalist friends of Bauby, the film director himself, the doctor and his assistant Mendibil at Berck. Beineix' title is significant. and ironic: Assigné à residence ·("House Arrest"). He says Bauby became a real actor, eager to make the film work perfectly.

Bauby's determination to overcome difficulties that would send most of us into irretrievable depths of despair are expeople suffering from Locked-pressed in the words: "I have In Syndrome." So he created able depths of despair are ex-



Photograph: André Rau / Elle

decided to carry on my fight against fatality by setting up the first association in the world for

ALIS (Association du Locked-In Syndrome) and became its first president, stating his objectives thus: "To collect all the present information about the syndrome, to allow sufferers to communicate better with one another, to create means of breaking the solitude and isolation, and to make them true citizens of the 21st century." Al-

become sponsors. The address of ALIS is: 38 boulevard Jean-Jaurès, 92100 Boulogne, France (telephone/ fax 00331 4604 3338).

James Kirkup

Jean-Dominique Bauby, jour-nalist and writer: born Paris 1952; married (one son, one daugraer): died Garches 9 March 1997

BIRTHS

BENSON: On 25 February 1947, to Grace (nee O'Connor) and Mark, a daughter, Katharine Margaret, a sis-ter for Edward. LINDSLEY: To Clare and Ian, on 10

March 1997, at Kingston Hospital, a girl. Poppy Maeve, a beautiful sister to Phoebe and Isabella. WALLBANK: Debra (Freeman) and Benedict are delighted to announce the birth of their son. Augustine Newell. on 10 March 1997, a broth-er for Bartholomew.

LAMBERTON: Dr. Hugh Murdoch Lamberton, peacefully it home on 10 March 1997, Mourned by Suc. Jon. March 1997. Mourned by Suc. Jon. Emma and Poppy, other Lamily and his many friends. "The cart is rattled all to pieces, and the long journey is at an end." Thanksgiving Juneral service at 2pm. Tuesday Is March 1997, in Malvern College Chapel, all are welcome. Private cremation will tollow. Please, no flowers. Donations if wished, payable to Action Aid. — Burundi, co. The Bursur, Malvern College, Malvern WR 14 3DF.

NICHOLAS: Dorothy Clare. BA SRN. Peacefully, on 9 March, in bospital at Doncaster, aged 58 years. R.LP. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, telephone 01302 342801.

NIEMAN: Alfred, composer, pianist and inspiring teacher, on 7 March 1997, after a long illness. Much missed by his wife, children and grandchildren his wife, children and grandemiaten and also his many students. Instead of flowers, domainens to Queen Mary's Hospital, which cared for him so won-derfully, can be sent too Leverton & derfully, can be sent too Leverton & Sons Lid. 212 Eversholt Street, Lon-

Births. Marriages & Deaths

don NW1 1BD 1Cheques made payable to "Special Trustees Grant number 476"). The funeral will take place at 11am on Monday 17 March, at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11.

WRIGHT: Dr Ingle [Lawrence], on 8 March 1997, aged 73. Wife of Dr John Lawrence [deceased]. Cremation at Manchester Crematorium, on Saturday 15 March at 11am.

MEMORIAL SERVICES ROBERTS: Sir Bryan, A thanksgiving service will take place at 11.3dam on Friday 11 April in the Crept Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral.

of St Paul's Cathedral.

SIMPSON: Tess. A gathering in memory of Dr Esdier Simpson will he held at the Royal Society, is Carlton House Terrace. London SWI, on Monday 14 April 1947, at 5,30pm for form, if you would like to be present, please contact (before I April) the Secretary, the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, 15 Rokeby House, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WCIN 5LX [0171-916 2838).

IN MEMORIAM

BARR: Frederick, died on Thursday L2 March 1992 Much loved. For Gazette SIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 9171-293 2012.

Birthdays Sir Antony Acland, Provost of Eton.

Sir Aniony Aciano, Provost of Eton. former diplomat, 67: Dr Glovanni Agnelli, chairman, Fiat Sp.A. 76: Mr Edward Albee, playwright, 69; Mr Ronald Alley, artist and former Keeper of Modern Art, Tate Gallery, 71: Mrs Virginia Bottomley MP. Secretary of State for National Herilage, 49: Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue Director of the Royal Collection, 66: Mr Peter Gwynn-Jones, Garter Prin-cipal King of Arms, 57; Mr Norman Hogg MP, 59; Mr Philip Jones, for-mer Principal, Trinity College of Music, London, 69; Mr David Mellor QC MP, 48; Miss Liza Minnelli, actress and singer, 51; Sir Tom Nor-manton, former MP, 80; Mr Patrick manton, former Mr, ou, our carriers Procisior, painter, 6t; Mr Rod Richards MP, 50; Mr Ralph Shapey, composer and conductor. 76; Lord Wallace of Saltaire, Reader in international Relations, London School of Economics, 56: Mr David Wilmot, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police, 54: Miss Googie Withers, actress, 80.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Edward, Turchon, the Duke of Edmburgh's Award, attends a data of a lamest Palage. Princess Maggard, Freshalt, the Gande Awardshay, news-a recipion of Account, and a data of the castlers, news-a recipion of Account, and a data of the castlers and the American and American and American and Maggard. Princess Alexandria are also distinct the Maggard of Kent. Vision, Ulanfield Principals attends the available on the Confidence of the American Amer Changing of the Guard

The Household Country Memotical Pagement attenues the Queen of the Grazell at Henrie Gunetie, Llare, it-bustation the Ravial Recognition of Made, moutes the Queen - Found at Buckingham Pathers, (1,2 tur-hand promoted by the host of Japanes).

Refugee's fear of persecution need not be current State for the Home Department Court of Appeal (Lard Justice

Huichison, Lord Justice Thorpe)

Simon Brown, Lord Justice

13 February 1997 To qualify as a refugee for the purposes of article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1961 Protocol, it was not necessary for the applicant to have a current well-founded fear of persecution if he were returned to his country of origin, so long as he had through such a fear of persecution initially fled his own country or remained ahroad due to circumstances (such as a civil war) arising there during his absence and

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Thorpe dissenting on the above issue) allowed appeals against decisions of the Lord Justice Simon Brown Immigration Appeal Trihunal said the fundamental issue in on 7 December 1995 and 22 these cases was whether, to be

would currently be unable to avail himself of that country's

protection if he were returned

LAW REPORT

12 March 1997

recognised as a refugee, it was always necessary for a person one was entitled to refugee staunable to return to his home country to show a current wellfounded fear of persecution or whether a historical fear might sometimes suffice.

Article 1A(2), which could be broken down into a series of clauses as follows, a refugee was someone who:

1(n) Owing to well-founded fear of I(a) Owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for [a Convention reason, i.e. race, religion, narional-ity, membership of a particular so-cial group or political opinion], is outside the country of his national-ity, and (b)(i) is unable to avail him-self of the protection of that country, or til) owing to such fear, is unwill-ing to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who

or that country, or who

2(a) not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former
habitual residence, tb)(i) is unable
to return to it, or (ii) owing to a wellfounded fear of being persecuted for
[a Convention reason] is unwilling
to return to it.

The strength of the Home

tus unless at the time his claim was determined he was in present fear of persecution were he to be returned home, lay in the use of the phrase "is out-side" in clause 1(a); its weakness lay in the difficulty in finding convincing reasons why the definition also included

clause 1(b).

As a matter of language is seemed the phrase is out-side", although couched in the present tense, could sensible construed to have any one of three meanings. It could mean, as Mr Pannick submitted, "is outside" owing to a well-founded fear of persecution still current at the time the applicant's claim was being determined; or it could mean has at some time, however long in the past, come to be outside on account of such fear and, for whatever

reason, has never thereafter

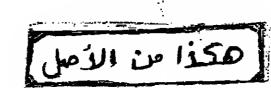
it could mean has come to be outside (or being outside, not to return) owing to past per-secution and still remained abroad on that account, in the sense that the causal link remained operative and had never been hroken. Though it might on occasion

left; or, as Mr Blake submitted.

be difficult to decide whether the causal link under that third formulation remained intact. this was an area of decisionmaking where a broad-brush approach was generally required and on such an ap-proach the problem was far from insoluble.

While anomalies might appear to arise on either view. Mr Blake's arguments were to be unable to return to his country of origin might indeed be entitled to recognition as a refugee provided only that the fear or actuality of past persecution still played a causative part in his presence in the UK.

Paul Magrath. Barrister



The main parties need a deeper shade of green

the usual suspects are paraded – local and household decisions about consumption, with the bigger politics of molorists' love of their cars, the false sense of control and security imparted by a metal box 15mm thick, selfishness on wheels, the permanent British ability to be surprised by the inherently changeable weather patterns of these islands. It does not do to overelaborate the causes of such accidents. Stupidity and ghoulishness account for a lot. But traffic incidents do not occur out of the blue. Understanding road use takes us, almost immediately, into discussing road building, the car culture, how it has affected the physical lay-out of town and country and the availability of public transport. These are all "environmental" policies.

Turn the pages of this newspaper: we are a nation beset with environmental concerns. The dry winter will lead to water and vegetable supply problems in the summer, with effects for business and leisure as well as the comfort of domestic life. The safe disposal of diseased carcasses seems too difficult for government to manage. Air quality is dangerously poor in some cities. Everywhere we are embroiled in arguments which are directly environmental, and others (rail privatisation, engagements with the World Trade Organisation) which affect our use of resources and our physical environment. Even fiscal wheezes such as the imposition of VAT on fuel show the interconnectedness of

scarcity and atmospheric degradation.

But if we have environmental scares and are sunk in environmental gloom, what we don't have much of is environmental politics. John Major and Tony Blair give ritualistic speeches, yes, but decisions by the wielders of power (or those who aspire to hold it) are not informed by any special or consistent environmental awareness.

In that, perhaps, they are not out of kilter with the public. Our worries about the planet, and these small green-andconcrete islands in particular, have not produced any sustained environmen-talist pressure. The roads and animal rights demonstrators are tiny guerrilla bands in an ocean of apathy. Some ministers (notably John Gummer) make high-toned speeches of global import about how people should change their ways. But so far as the focus groups and the swing voters of Middle England go, they show little inclination so to do. Whether they live in Worcester or Basildon, people are - politically speaking - unconcerned with matters green.

The unveiling yesterday by the Green Party of its manifesto for the forthcoming election is unlikely to change that. They are a fringe diversion, a splin-tered electoral nothing. Compare Germany, where the Greens are a political presence, locally and nationally - there



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new ruling coalition. In Britain, after that blip in Green Party performance in the 1989 European Parliament elections, they virtually disappeared. Greens hold a handful of council seats and, though they are contesting four-score parliamentary seats, their percentages are likely to be risible.

The reasons are not hard to find. Fringe political groups are centrifugal; the Greens have more than their share of fanatics and messiahs. We find fundamentalism no more attractive in green than any other colour. Ordinary British people do not take kindly to is even talk of their being the pivot of a being lectured at by the self-declared

possessors of virtue. And yes, the Greens do suffer from the unfair British electoral system (though on present numbers they would not necessarily pass the likely threshhold tests of most schemes for proportional representation).

Of course, the Greens may yet claim the future. Who knows ... perhaps after a Blair government has been in office for a term and enacted measures for constitutional change, the political landscape will open wide and through the fissures will come new movements. Perhaps, as some argue, the green political movement is comparable with, say. the Independent Labour Party of the and often, lift our sights too. It is sad

1890s, a sect developing advanced thoughts in isolation from the parliamentary mainstream only to come into its own within a decade. Greens have no solid social base like the trade unions, but the green rallying cry might be taken up by some social formation yet to cohere - young people always respond enthusiastically to opinion poll questions on the environment, and might in their thirties come to vote that way. Meanwhile, the organisational weak-

ness of the green tendency in Britain ought to be a source of regret. Single-issue parties tend to make bad governments but as candidates, ever threatening to succeed hut never quite making it, they can be immensely valuable in keeping the mainstream parties thoughtful and honest. The task ahead is to fit environmental concern with other priorities: there is no point pretending people's wish for better incomes, more johs and the enhanced economic growth on which they depend is somehow going to be dissipated in a green haze. So, for the time being, the best deliverers of environmental progress will be political par-ties with a broad social and policy base.

The question is how to prod and push them. The environmental utopianism personified by Swampy and his tun-nelling and tree-climbing pals only goes so far. What we need is old-fashioned political leadership by MPs who are able to lift their sights, and by speaking well that the same environmental issues which cloud so many citizens' brows are barely discussed by their political leaders. It is a democratic failure. The job of Messrs Major, Blair, Ashdown and the rest is partly to challenge us, make us think harder, and ready us for the inconvenient, sometimes unpleasant, but essential changes to our lifestyles necessary for a better husbanding of our islands. And so across the globe. Only by billions of daily decisions to behave differently will the planet he saved.

Business finds its voice on Europe

A t last. British business is speaking Lup on European union, the single currency and the Government's broken-backed approach to Europe. For too long the views of trading companies have gone unheard - as if they did not have an interest in decisions about money and markets. The running has been made by questionably representative organisations such as the Institute of Directors. Anti-European sentiment" as Sir Colin Marshall coyly puts it, has been allowed to flourish partly because his and his colleagues' voices have been hushed. The European debate is stilted and incomplete without the traders and deal makers.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Chance to end the culture of cover-ups

Sir: The revelation (7 March) of the failure of the Ministry of : Agriculture to publish a report compiled two years ago which told of abatious that contained carcasses soiled with excrement and urine represents another nail

in the Government's DIY coffin.
Although this oversight is only
the latest episode in the catalogue
of cover-ups that has characterised
the Tory administration in recent
times, it is also demonstrative of a rottenness festering at the heart of government - a culture of denial. Witness Nicholas Soames's cornered-animal behaviour over use of organophosi

Gulf war. Although the economy is poised to deliver prosperity the culture of cover-up and denial, adopted to protect the Conservatives' integrity, has in fact done the exact opposite. It has been seen for what it really is, an arrogant disrespect for democracy and the people of this country. This has had a

profound effect on the electorate. My only fear is that this culture may prove endemic to the British system of government and not one particular party. Labour, if they win, must prove otherwise, and this will be expedited by the implementation of a Freedom of Information Act. PAUL CUMBERLAND Faculty of Social and Political Sciences University of Cambridge

Sir. The idea of a merger between Labour and the Liberal Democrais (Donald Macintyre, 7 March) may be driven by the Labour drive for omnipotence, but the reason it won't happen is precisely because of our very different attitudes to power, which Labour members find difficult

to understand, almost touchingly so. Uniquely, Liberals are motivated by a desire to disperse and control power. Conservatives have traditionally been happy for power to be concentrated according to wealth. The reason they lost their way is that Thatcherism concentrated power in the state, which disorientated them.

Socialists have always wanted power collectivised and centralised usually in the state. The abandonment of that analysis leaves Labour philosophically floundering too, but its legacy is the social authoritarianism of Straw and the corruption of the local one-

It is no accident that it is Liberal Democrats, not Conservatives, who are the main challengers to Labour rule in the rule-by-patronage fieldoms such as Lambeth, Liverpool, Sheffield and Islington. We have a guiding motivation that Tories lack, which is a harred of the concentration of power that has left poor people dependent on an inefficient and self-interested

ronen borough. When we take power in these deprived areas, our priority is to give back to people the power over their own lives which Labour has arrogated to itself. It is not mbalism that makes us oppose Labour, but a fundamental difference in our agenda. Councillor SARAH LUDFORD (Liberal Democrat, Islangton) London NI

Sir: James Scott, while deploring racism, is quite happy to indulge in stereotyping (letter, 8 March). Think," he writes, "of all those Labour voters in northern working



men's clubs guffawing along with Bernard Manning."
For a start, Mr Scott, we don't gnffaw up here, we laugh. Secondly, any idea that working men's clubs are full of Labour voters is extremely simplistic. Would that it were true. Had it been, we wouldn't have had this motley crew of spivs and secondhand-car salesmen running the country for the last 18 years. Working men and women have traditionally been their own worst enemies and have voted Conservative as regularly and as blindly as the best-educated Buckinghamshire dweller, voting with their pockets and purses for

the party that they imagined would fill them. Ah well I'm off to oil the whippets and put some more tripe in me flat 'at before going off to t' club to hear some darkie jokes. MIKE HARDING

Manchester. The writer is a stand-up comedian

Kids to support? Apply to Cardinal

Sir. I am delighted to hear that the Archbishop of Glasgow, Cardinal Thomas Winning, has decided to give practical assistance to all those who decide against an abortion, if the reason for the original decision was based on financial considerations (report, 10 March).

May I suggest that this approach be extended to contraception, another aspect of family life which the Cardinal can be assumed to oppose, as he must naturally support the Pope's teaching.

Anyone who decides against the use of contraception, but cannot

support the children conceived thereafter, should apply to the Archbishop for practical support. I am sure that the financial means will be provided generously by those few Catholics who still agree with the papal teaching against artificial contraception. FRANKJPYCROFT

Secretary Catholics for a Changing Church London ŠE13

Jail us instead of Kurdish MP

Sir: We write to you on International Women's Day to drawyour urgent attention to the plight of the imprisoned Kurdish MP Leyla Zana.

It is now more than two years since the shameful sentences were passed against Leyla Zana and six other Kurdish MPs. Failing to secure a death sentence because of national and international protests, the state prosecutor was able to get the court to sentence Leyla to an incredible 15 years in prison. Leyla Zana was convicted

because of her singular devotion to the cause of freedom and peace for the Kurdish people. Despite the threat of torture and persecution, she courageously continued her struggle for a political solution of the Kurdish conflict as well as for recognition of the Kurdish identity and language and the liberation of Kurdish women.

She was the first Kurdish woman MP to be elected, in the city of

Diyarbakir, to serve in the Turkish parliament. But her tenure as an MP was cut short when she was arrested by police on 5 March 1994 after the Turkish MPs voted to lift her parliamentary immunity and that of other Kurdish deputies.

World-wide protests from women, including Danielle Mitterrand, as well as appeals, demonstrations and hunger strikes have so far failed to move the Turkish government to release her We demand that the Turkish

government immediately release

Leyla Zana and the other Kurdish MPs and restore their parliamentary immunity. In exchange for one day of provisional liberty for Leyla Zana we declare our readiness to spend the same day in jail in Turkey. PAULINE GREEN MEP (London North, Lab/Co-op) ANITA POLLACK MEP (London South West, Lab) CHRISTINE CRAWLEY MEP (Birmingham East, Lab) CAROLE TONGUE MEP (London East, Lab) JENNY JONES Chair of Green Party UK VICTORIA BRITTAIN: LOUISE

CHRISTIAN; FRANCES WEBBER GARETH PEIRCE; SHERI LAIZER; CLARA CONNOLLY; ANN ROSSITER: FRAN HAZLETON; NICKI JAMESON; MIRANDA WATSON; LIB PECK; SUSAN PITT; NATALIA TARI; R TAMI; LESLEY KIPLING; NAZANEEN RASHEED: YVETTE MAHON; A JONES; Rabhi MARGARET JACOBI; CHRISTINE HEVEY

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk)

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Family tree of Prince William

Sir: Paul Vallely ("The cost of the royal snub to Carey". 10 March) may be right to describe Henry VIII as the founder of the church into which Prince William has been confirmed, but he is wrong to describe Henry as the Prince's

ancestor.

Henry VIII was succeeded by three surviving children: Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I; but when Elizaheth died in 1603 the throne of England passed to the descendants of Henry's elder sister Margaret and her husband. James V of Scotland.

On the other hand, Prince William can claim as ancestors the (anti-) pope Felix V and such royal figures as St Margaret of Scotland. St Louis IX of France, and St Fernando III of Castile and Leon. And he can probably also claim descent from Genghis Khan - a fitting replacement for Henry VIII? ERIC THOMPSON London NW2

Charity cards

Sir: Contrary to the impression given by Jojo Moyes in her article Card retailers are charity Scrooges" (18 December), Roger la Borde (and lots of other small greetings card publishers) give a much higher proportion of their profits on Christmas card packs to charity than the much-vaunted 30 pence in the pound demanded by

Nigel Griffiths, the Labour

consumer affairs spokesman. Small publishers and retailers make far less profit on Christmas cards than multiple retailers, who can reduce costs by printing huge quantities and selling through their own outlets. Criticising small publishers and independent retailers for giving smaller proportions of the retail price to charity than large chains such as WH Smith is like criticising one person for giving you only half of their jam tart while praising another for giving you a slice of their cake. TIM SOLNICK Roger la Borde

Smoking risks

Sir: Lynne Reid Banks is talking nonsense (letter, 8 March). Some smokers did feel that smoking was bad for them, but it is only recently that there has been proof of the devastating damage cigarettes cause. Why else has the number of doctors who smoked plummeted since the Sixties? HELEN MILLER

Off your trolley

Sir: The photomontage of Westminster in your from -page story "Mr Brown and the strange case of those serial political assassinations" (11 March) juxtaposes the shadow Chancellor with an old-style London tram on route 16 to Croydon. Shurely shome mishtake? DAVID ORCHARD

Spoil us for pub choice

Sir: It is good to see Jonathan Glancey joining in the celebration of the careful and respectful conversion of the Commercial Rooms in Bristol to pub usage ("A renaissance down the boozer". 7

However, in taking Camra and English Heritage to task for being perhaps a bit out of touch and exhorting them to "cast their net a little wider when judging next year's puh design awards", he has not appreciated the way in which the joint awards scheme operates.

It may be that the country, led by London, is awash with good-quality refurbishment and new-huild schemes, but the awards, which are annual, are only for refurbishment projects completed during the previous year. Of these, the judges were faced with the thinnest selection for many years.

EH and Camra invite anyone involved in, or aware of, good work in existing pubs, or the creation of new pubs. to submit entries for the various award categories. We would be happy to supply entry forms to any *Independent teaders* who have puls to nominate for next year's awards. We would love to be spoilt for choice. BOB HAWKINS English Heritage 23 Savile Row London WTX 1.4B

Sir: I do not see how you can "design" a puh ("A renaissance down the boozer". 7 March). Certainly, the "Phil" in Liverpool is a spectacular huilding, hut that has othing to do with its qualities as a pub. People make a pub what it is. Some of my favourite pubs have less than perfect beer, no food other than snacks, fake beams, television sets and bright lights, but they are wonderful puhs nevertheless, because of the people

who use them.
Even "bores hulging from cheap suits" make a contribution, as the regulars realise with pleasure - or schadenfreude – that an unsuspecting stranger has entered into what is destined to be a very one-sided conversation. DAVE FOY St Helens, Mersevside

Drain plagiarist?

Sir: The points of correspondence between Graham Swift's Last Orders and William Faulkner's.4s I Lay Dying (*Booker man hits hack at accusers", 10 March | prompted me to take a critical look at Mr Swift's Waterland, a novel set in the fenland area of East Anglia.

I am amazed to find that the structure, page numbers and title headings are in all respects similar to the annual report of the Little Ouse Internal Drainage Board for 1989, which was runner-up in the non-fiction section of the competition run by the Institute of Drainage for that year. GRAHAM HARRISON

My BT bonus

Sir: Let me comment on speculation in The Independent about my potential honus for 1996/7 (report, 10 March). There is no chance of my being offered a sum approaching £500,000 as a

Just for the record, if I were. I would not accept it. IAIN VALLANCE Chairman, BT London EC1

Stanleyville. VS Naipauls' colonial town on the Congo, is set to be taken by Zaire's **Tiberators' 30** years after their first attempt, says

Richard Gott

s Laurent Kahila's rebel forces march gani, the thirdlargest tuwn in Zaire, the world is beginning to wake up to the fact that one of the most important countries in Africa is about to change hands. For much of the past six months, while the Zaire rebellion has been maturing, attention has remained focused on one of the more insignificant countries - on the drama and tragedy associated with Rwanda, Now the future of Zaire itself is finally at the top of the agenda.

Readers wondering why the fall of Kisangani might be such a key development will understand better if reminded of its ebange of name. Just as Zaire used to be called the Congo (and is tu be called that again when Kahila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo wins the current war), so Kisangani was unce called Stanleyville. The old name must still evoke a curious flood of memories in the West - of colonial adventurers, missionaries and mercenaries, and Cold War entanglements. It is a measure of how the world has changed over the past 30 years that the tuture of the Congo/Zaire should now be seen to be of

such little moment. In November 1964, only just elected as Britain's prime minister and without a foreign secretary in parliament. Harold Wilson authorised the use of the British military base on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic for a special mission. It was to serve as a launching-pad for a successful US-Belgian attempt to turn the tide of a civil war in the Congo in which the fate of the world



A bend in the river, a twist of history

seemed to hang in the balance. On 24 November, 600 Belgian paratroops, flown in from Ascension Island on transport planes supplied by the United States, captured Stanleyville airport, and linked up with mercenaries from South Africa and Rhodesia lighting for the overnment army of Moises Tshombe. Their official aim was to rescue European host-

Stanleyville, an attractive colonial riverine city, was established in the early 1880s by Henry Stanley, the American journalist (and later a British MP). It became the heartland of Congolese radicalism, bome town of Patrice Lumumba, the leader of the Congo at the time of indepen-Lumumba, backed by the Rus-

sians, was murdered early in 1961, after the first trial of strength with Tshombe, backed by the West during which the United Nations looked impo-

Lumumha's name was to be opportunistically used by the Russians for their newlyestablished university for Third World students in Moscow. and in 1964 his statue stood in the centre of Stanleyville.

In August that year, as is happening today, the town was captured by rebels fighting in the Lumumbist cause. There they established fur several months the headquarters of the "People's Republic of the Congo", led by Christophe Gbenve, a politician formerly in Lumumba's government. In dence from Belgium in 1960, the great Cold War battle for victory in recently decolonised

seemed to be forging ahead.
The left-wing rehels had done well that year. Pierre Mulele, another old Lumumbist, had moved in from Congo-Brazzaville and seized much territory in the west. while Gaston Soumaliot and Laurent Kahila - then a young Frencheducated politician from northem Katanga - had advanced from Burundi into the eastern Congo, west of Lake Tanganyika (just where Kabila has again been operating so suc-

cessfully). With the capture of

Stanleyville in August 1964,

much of the country was in

rebel hands.

The United Nations, which had had troops in the Congo for four years and was suffering from Congo fatigue, had withdrawn them in June. The Chinese, still denied membership of the UN, had been taking an interest in supporting Mulelc. The Russians, still refusing to pay their share of the UN's Congo expeditioo, were backing Soumaliot and

Soon the diplomatic recog-nition extended to Ghenye's "People's Republic" by many radical African states was to set the scene for one of the typical confrontations "by proxy" of the Cold War. The Russians and the Chinese now openly supported Gbenye's rebel goverament, while the Americans and the West gave military aid

Africa, the Communists and succour to the govern-seemed to be forging ahead. meot in the capital, Leopold-treated, and then held as hostville (now Kinshasa), of Tshombe (who had seized power in July) and his com-mander-in-chief, Colonel Joseph Mobutu.

For several months, as Tshombe's white mercenary army was assembled and trained and began to advance from the south towards Stanleyville, there was a propaganda war. In Stanleyville itself, the rebels spread news of an American "atomic attack" on a town to the north, and held two days of mourning for the "victims". At the same time, Nicolas Olenga, the rebel military commander in Stanleyville, and bis "Simba" troops, became globally famous for what were coasid ered their "atrocities".

Swas supporting Tshombe, Olenga's men began to round up the Belgians and the North Americans in the local white community in the Stanleyville area. Mostly businessman and Protestant missionaries, they were, of course, regarded as untrustworthy. Some of the North Americans bad been brought up on the stories of the famous massacre of Protestant missionaries in Ecuador in the Fifties, and had a bighly developed sense of impending martyrdom. Many of them were rounded up by

ecause the "white" West

ages. (Alone among the old European population, the Greeks were left unmolested to feed the others in the gaol)

As Tshombe's mercenary army closed in on Stanleyville in November, the Americans feared that their hostage missionaries would be killed. They devised a rescue operation, to coincide with the arrival of the mercenary army, that would send in Belgian snatch-squads to lift out the hostages. It was the longest long-range

parachute operation ever undertaken, and, as in other similar cases, it was only partially successful. The paratroopers landed, the airport was seized, and several missionaries and their families were rescued. But many were mevitably killed in the ensuing chaos. The death toll as the rebel city fell to the mercenaries was large; more than 200 Europeans and bundreds of

VS Naipaul, in his novel A Bend in the River, describes Stanleyville in the aftermath of the rebellion. "The place hadbad its troubles: the town at the bend in the river was more than half destroyed. What had been the European suburb near the rapids had been hurnt down, and bush had grown over the ruins; it was hard to distinguish what had been gardens from what had been streets."

Both losses led them to lose the support of their international allies. General Mobutu staged a comp against Tshombe at the

of the internal dissension

later, the situation could hardly be more different. The distortions of the Cold War have fallen away. The "radical" African states have all disappeared; as has the Soviet Union itself, and the threat of Chinese intervention. Che Guevara and Tshombe are long dead. Only Castro and Mobutu remain - and Lau-

Although there is consider able disagreement between the United States and France about what should happen in what will undoubtedly soon again be called the Congo, the chief international players are now the governments of the

surrounding states.

Here Laurent Kabila has played his hand with consummate skill, and President Mobutu's position is correspondingly weak. Starting with the firm support of Yoweri Museveni in Uganda, Rahita has also had the backing of the Luanda government in Angola. They have long opposed President Mobutu because of his ancient friendship with Ionas Savimbi, the leader of the Unita rebels. While Uganda belped to organise, train, and discipline Kabila's rebels into an effective force, the

Angolans have reportedly been flying in both men and weapons to Kabila's liberated zone on the Tanzanian border. One diplomatic report even suggests that a rebel Zairean force is already assembling in the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, poised to move on Kinshasa at any moment.

In all these development the old protagonists of the Cold War have been conspicu-Ghana - in favour of the autious by their absence. General Mobuta is convalescing in promised to back up their Southern France, but planning to that old generation of dictators, east and west, who were kept in power by the immobilentered the lists. Just as the ity of that frozen era. He will Americans had provided soon go to join Ferdinand Marcos and Alfredo Stroessner in that part of Valhalla ser aside for dictators distinguished by their longevity and finally dropped by their patrons. The Americans, for their part, take an intelligent interest in what is going on, but show no signs of propping up their old ally. No one, this time, has put Ascension Island on alert.

As the heirs to the legacy of Patrice Lumumba, Kabila's men now stand once again at the gates of the old, decrepit town of Stanleyville - where doubtless, as everywhere else, they will be greeted this time as liberators. Kabila could certainly run a decent post-Mobutu Congo, though no one thinks it would be particularly radical. That era is over. Yet it will be a strange twist of history. - a Long March indeed - if Che Guevara's old companionin-arms finally gets to control the Congo - more than 30 the political struggle as a result years after his first attempt.

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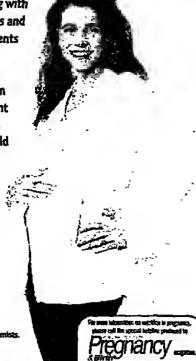
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What's in a surname? Ask the doctor

Dr Vernon Monicker, the well-known expert oo the origin of surnames, who is going to answer all your uestions on nomenciature. All yours, Vern!

I recently saw the classic film "The Lost Weekend" on television, which as you will remember is the film made by Billy Wilder about an alcoholic writer and his suffering, and it got me to dunking seriously about things ... Dr Vernon Monicker writes:

I am not really qualified to talk about medical matters such as alcohol addiction. Although I call myself doctor, I am no more a real doctor than other people who call themselves doctor such as Mawhinney and

No. I wasn't going to talk about the alcoholism side of things. I was just mystified by the name of the lead actor. Ray Milland. Have you any idea where it comes from? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: I believe it is short for Raymond.

am glad to welcome back I was thinking of the Dr Vernon Monicker, the sumamc Milland. Would i be a corruption of the Italian place name Milan? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Unlikely, considering that the Italian place name is Milano and there is no "d" on the end. Yes. wise guy, but there is in

German. The German word for Milan is "Mailand", which may have given the surname "Milland". Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Unlikely, Mr Show-off, Far more likely that Milland is a shortened form of "Mill hand". Don't forget that many surnames refer to the occupation of the ancestor. It is sometimes said that any football team or government cabinet will contain the names of at least two occupations in it. Said by whom? Dr Vernon Monicker writes:

By me, actually. Go on then, give me the names of two occupations in the English football team! Dr Yernon Monicker writes: Alan Shearer. Dr Vernon Monicker writes:



Miles Kington

David Seaman. Oh. very clever. Any more? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Certainly, Des Walker, Matt Le Tissier...

They're not occupations!
Dr Vernon Monicker writes:
Certainly they are. Walker was the name given to the man who trampled the cloth in cloth-making, and "tissier" is an old Jersey French dialect word for weaver". Extraordinary, really, that three people who have recently been in

the England football team should have names connected with the cloth Make it easier to change the

teum strip!

The result of the Stanleyville

operation - a textbook exam-

ple of overt Western interven-

tion - was further to unite the

radical African states - notably

Algeria, Egypt, Guinea and

words with military assista

as did the Russians and the

Cuban mercenaries (left over from the Bay of Pigs in 1961)

to fly Tshombe's planes, so

Fidel Castro was now to send

his own Cubans to help the

Congolese rebels. In Decem-

ber 1964, Che Guevara went to

the United Nations in New

York to denounce the crime at

Stanleyville, perpetrated by

Belgian paratroopers, trans-

ported by United states air-

craft, which took off from British bases". A few months

later, in April 1965, he arrived

with a trained troop of black Cubans to join Kabila's motley

collection of Congo fighters.

Mobutu's mercenary army had

already got the upper hand. The Congolese rebels failed

even to get near to Stanleyville, let alone to recapture it. Within

a few months, Kabila's men

were defeated on many fronts:

They lost on the battlefield to-

the mercenaries, and they lost

But by that time, General

A surprising player then

forces.

No donht. All right, what about government cabinets? Anyone with an occupational ndle in the cabinet? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Clarke. Gummer. Major... Of course, it used to be more striking when both main party leaders had occupational names. Smi and Thatcher. But even

Dr Vernon Monicker writes:

today there is another party leader with an occupational Oh yeah? What kind of work does an ashdown do, then? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: I was thinking of a man called Goldsmith, actually. Who has recently been joined by a man called

Gardiner. All names of To change the subject a bit, noticed that James Dellingpole in The Speciator" recently said that

as his name began with a

"De-", it was probably Norman in origin. Any truth Dr Vernon Monicker writes:

If there was a place in Normandy called Lingpole it might be true. Some old Norman names do begin with "De-", like Delaware, hut I think you would be hard pushed to find Norman origins for Delfont, Denmark and Dexter.

Marmaduke Hussey has an old Norman name, by the way, which comes from the Norman place La Houssaye. And there is a place in Normandy called Venables, so I expect that Terry Venables's forebears came across with the Conqueror, probably on a free transfer. Is the name Norman St John

Stevas a genuine Norman name? Dr Vernön Monicker writes: The name is authentic enough, but I believe that

Dr Vernon Monicker will be back soon, so keep those queries rolling in:

completely made up.

المكذا من الدُمل

The weightless economy is on track for victory

f you watched the Aus-tralian Grand Prix in Melbourne on the box last weekend and felt you would like a slice of the action, you may soon be able to have it. For the Formula One business may be floated on the stock market in May. But before you reach for your cheque books, ponder this number: £2.4bn. That is, apparently, what the business is worth.

To put that in perspective, this is more than a successful high-street than a successful

high-street retailer such as Next or Dixons, or six times as much as Body Shop. And for that money, what do you get? You don't buy the cars or the tracks. You certainly don't buy the drivers, and they don't come cheap. What you would be buying is the brand, which happens to be owned by a single individual, Bernie Ecclestone, who built it up and now wants to sell it to the public.

What makes this brand so. valuable is the global television rights. In TV terms, Formula One is an astonishingly successful phenomenon. Its 400 million viewers worldwide put it third only to the Olympics and the World Cup, which in any case only take place every four years. And a high proportion of those viewers are pre-cisely those that TV companies find hardest to attract; young and middle-aged up-market men. As the TV industry moves into the digital age, with the prospect of a thousand or more channels, how on earth will the companies find things that have sufficient global clout to cut through the cacophony of the airwaves and attract the attention of the viewers? Answer: by buying rights

to things like Formula One. And all prospective investors would get would be rights: no factories, no shops, no physical stocks, no physical products, very few staff. It is the ultimate global weightless business, a business where the product can be reduced to string of digital computer signals, flashed round the world, and hundreds of mil-

lions of people will buy it.
This is the future - in the sense that international trade will increasingly be in intangibles. Of course there has somewhere to be a physical entity. There have to be tracks, cars and drivers in the case of Formula One, just as there have to be TVs on which to watch the Grand Prix, or for that matter personal computers on which to use the software pumped out by Microsoft. But the real value - or at least much of it, for as this paper reported yesterday there is a row between Formula One and the racing car constructors over the way the

spoils should be split - is intangible. If you bridle at the idea that world trade will increasingly be weightless, consider this. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, recently pointed out that the weight of US output now is little higher than it was 100 years ago, but its value in real terms is 20 times higher. Or consider a Toyota car built



Hamish McRae

Formula One is for sale-notthe cars or the tracks. but the brand. This is the most extreme example of value lying just in an

become a business in its own right, sell to a whole string of different manufacturers, and maybe even float itself as a unit at some future date? There is a practical moral here. It is that economic prosidea

has in I been shipped across the

oceans, the international trade

is in the design and marketing, for those are the elements that

have moved from Japan to

The idea that firms where

the main value is in royalties or rights should be traded on the

stock market is not at all new. Much of the value of pharma-

ceutical companies lies in their

patents, and once key patents

expire the companies have to hope they have other winners in the pipeline. Much of the value

of publishers is in their backlist

rather than in new titles. But

Formula One is perhaps the most extreme example of value

Expect in the future eco-

nomic competition becoming

more and more in the ability of countries to generate ideas like this. Manufacturing technology

crosses national boundaries in

a matter of weeks, for virtually

all physical products can be

taken to bits and "reverse engi-

neered". You can gain an advantage for a while by having a brilliant product, but not for

long. In any case, once the word gets round that you have a brilliant design team, expect that team to hive itself off. Why should the team work for

mere salaries when it can

lying just in an idea.

perity for advanced, developed nations will depend not so much on the ability to make things, but more on the ability to generate ideas that can then be sold to the world. It means that originality, flair, entrepreneurship, maybe even cussed-ness, will be increasingly prized. You see, all advanced developed countries

are becoming the same. We will all educate people to high standards, we will all have access to the highest technology, we will all be able to raise money on the global capital markets on the same terms, and we will all have low inflation. Even our political ideas are becoming the same: compare Blair and Clinton, or look at the way privatisation has swept the world. So what differentiates us? The answer partly lies in our cultures, and in particular our ability to generate and exploit new ideas. Formula One is by no means a new idea, for people have been racing cars for more than a century, but it has been brilliantly exploited.

Indeed, coming up with ideas is only half the trick; the other half is to build businesses out of them. The key measure of the economic vitality of a nation will be the number of business start-ups. Some day we may even reach the stage where bright undergraduates achieve status not by getting a First, but by running a successful business in their spare time. Chances are that most of those businesses will weigh nothing; and just a tiny number will be worth a lot.

The teenies vote for snog 'n' run by Peter Popham

he success of a wellknown all-female British pop group in scoring four num-ber-one hits in a row as well as hitting number one in America has led certain sad, wizened wrinklies to ask, is this not a world-historical event? Whenever, since the heyday of the Andrews Sisters or the Beverley Sisters or indeed the sainted Vernon Girls (spon-sored by Vernon Pools back in the 1950s) did such a thing hap-pen? Where are the girl groups of yesteryear? Or even this

year, for that matter?
A cursory inspection suggests that female groups have always been relatively thin on the ground. Our battered copy of 1963 And All That points to a volcanic eruption of female vocal talent at the start of the 1960s: the Crystals, the big, brassy, inimitable Phil Spector sound, then over in Detroit the Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas and the rest of the Motown stable.

Then silence. Silence for decade after decade; the Seventies, the Eighties. Somewhere in the Eighties a band called Bananarama sprang up, had a string of hits, got badmouthed and scorned and ridiculed, begat Shakespear's Sister. And that, until the dawning of the age of Ziga-zigah, was about that.

It's one of the little jokes history likes to play. The Sixties comes along, sexual equality gets on to the political agenda, women begin making incursions into industry and parliament and journalism and the law; God the Father becomes "Creator God". Then just to prove that things aren't quite that simple, rock'n'roll, quintessential youth art form of the age, turns out to be the most male-dominated, male chauvinistic phenomenon since the

Mongol hordes. When female pop groups do occasionally appear, they are all too obviously manufactured, and they have the life expectancy of Toys, anyone? Well I do, but only for one song, "Symphony of Love" (the tune was nicked from Bach). The Shirelles sang "Will You Love Me Tomorrow", which had the rare distinction of also being written by a woman (Carole King). It's a great song. But to place any of these groups in the same company as the Beatles, the Stones or the Smiths would be absurd.

Charlotte Greig hegs to dif-fer. In her book about female groups (called Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? and pub-



Taking the Spice Girls seriously is like asking how the Power Rangers will vote

groups making good music -Patty LaBelle and the Bluebelles is one name that springs to her mind - but the pop music press snobbishly ignored them, partly because many of the groups were black, partly because the press was infatuated with Genesis, Queen, and

all things Progressive.
The Eighties were even worse. "When I was writing the book in the Eighties, Bananarama was the only girl group around," she says now, "and everyone was really foul about rock still drool over. In Britain

lished by Virago) she asserts them, calling them himhos and there were female punk groups

Of course, once you start scratching around it soon becomes clear that girl groups have been around for as long as rock'n'roll has existed, but they have never done well enough to make it really big.

Historians point to the Californian group The Runaways, a glamrock fantasy band of the Seventies, or Girlschool, a heavy metal outfit of the same decade, who had a hit with Motorhead, "Please Don't Touch", which archaeologists of Slits, "real Notting Hill" as one fan remembers fondly; the frontwoman was a German Rastafarian called Ari Upp, daughter of a count. Yet the footnotes of musical history is

acts have ended up. Then came Madonna, and after her success, and particularly after the way she spun it out and transformed her appeal year after year, things for girls ning to vote. It is a category in pop were never going to be the same again. She bestrides

where, rightly or wrongly, these

and four-bit wonders alike creep about in her shadow.

Charlotte Greig again:

"Madonna was doing something a bit new, bringing a lot of hip-hop. Latino and gay discomusic into the mainstream."

She also popularised what one commentator styles the "roaring girl" feminism that is such a striking feature not only of the striking feature not only of the Spice Girls but also of their rivals, such as Eternal, Shampoo. En Vogue, and the new sensation from Sunderland, Kenickie. Sbc paved the way for the "snog n'run" culture which the Spice Girls champion, the "strange mixture". according to another observer, "of sensitivity with in-your-face assertiveness; the subliminal message of romance - you get your boy by not giving a stuff about boys. The pose is yo-yo knickers, but the reality is they're quite straight." Evidence: both Madonna and Geri Halliwell, the socalled "Sexy Spice", lost their virginity at the incredibly advanced age of 18 (and both to

aise jockeys). The general shape of the argument is becoming clear. Girlic pop (we're allowed to use such terms again, it seems) eked out a miserable half-life in the lee of the male variety for 40-odd years, but now at last has discovered the beady mix of . assertion, frivolity and fun which can set it free. This is why we are right to eschew the sort of snobby attitudes brought to bear on Bananarama and the like, and instead to submit the Spices' latest single to exegetical analysis quite as stringent as that applied to last week's Premier League matches.

There League matches,
There is another possible view, however. The Spice Girls success, according to these heretics, is down to the fact that (thanks to the telly) they have tens of thousands of fans as young as four or five, for whom they are fully articulated Barbie dolls, and who badget their parents into buying the CDs. For slightly older fans, up to. puberty, their dumpy looks and ingly reminiscent of what they see in the mirror. The groups vast success, they say, is above all a reflection of how the pop music market has fragmented into dozens of niches, amongwhich the teeny weeny boppers

may be as big as any.
Taking the Spice Girls seriously, in other words, is suntamount to enquiring how the Power Rangers are planerror. Perhaps the old contempt for bubble-gum the age, and one-hit wonders music is ripe for a revival.

Blair needs to be more than tough

Leading a Labour cabinet will need Thatcher's steel and Major's cunning, argues Andrew Marr

Thatcherite. When he spoke earlier. this week about how he would run gov-ernment "from the centre" and promised "uncompromising ... un-alterable" New Labour policies, he was echoing her. The tone, if not the policies themselves, thrills the blood of all those visceral leader-followers who felt themselves politically disenwho felt the seed by the Major years. At the of a notoriously fissiparous party, he other end of the spectrum, the Labour will be unable to push through the other end of the spectrum, the Labour left snarls privately about Blair's

What's the truth? First, let us dispose of the idea that Blair's promise to lead from the from is a pose, or secondary to his agenda - some kind of

political fashion accessory. He means it. Gorbachev was said to have "a nice smile but iron teeth". Having heard Blair privately on the brief, bleak future that is waiting for Labour rebels or disloyal leakers, and having talked to shocked trade unionists who tried to arm-twist him and came away nursing disjointed elbows, I think Blair's famous rictus is similar in substance. Would one of nature's Fotherington-Thomases have dispatched Gordon Brown quite so swiftly in the leadership race follow-

ing John Smith's death? Toughness and leader-cult politics are central to New Labour. Just as Thatcher created a new electoral base by bringing over from Labour a swathe of blue-collar workers and the lower middle classes, bolting them on to the traditional Tory constituency, so Blair is trying to refashion Labour's base, by

swinging the middle classes behind him. Having fought a desperately unsuccessful by-election during the noontide of triumphal, Falklands-era Thatcherism, Blair knows very well that these potential New Labour voters are patriotic, hard-boiled, materialistic and, above all, prome to admire strong lead-

ow tough is Tony Blair? Well, he says he's tough. His personal attitude is consciously hatcherite. When he spoke earlier (him) and the weak (John Major). It may not be a pretty sight. But it is a carefully considered one.

Where, though, will it lead him if he wins? The first point is an obvious one, which is that Blair will be unable to achieve anything much if be is not a strong and sometimes ruthless parliamentary leader. Without tight control reforms be has promised. Those of us who want decentralisation of power and political pluralism from him have to accept the paradox that to deliver, he must first control the centre.

The other point is a more personal one, but no less important. It concerns the complex relations between Blair, Gordon Brown, and the other heavy-weights, particularly Robin Cook and John Prescott. The unchallenged facts are these: Prescott has no leadership ambitions for himself. If he breaks with Blair, or storms out of a Labour government, it will be bad management by the Labour leader, and nothing more. Meanwhile Brown and Cook, both ambitious, are united by mutual and cordial dislike.

If Labour wins, how much does this matter? Let us start with another simple truth rammed home by the Thatcher era: a government depends heavily on the relationship between

the Prime Minister and Chancellor. Blan's relationship with Brown is complex the shadow Chancellor was his intellectual mentor, his morethan-equal, for years. They speak almost every day in private. And, per-haps, Blair uses Brown as a lightningconductor for bostility to his own views. Certainly, it is easier to attack Brown than the leader himself.

MPs and shadow ministers who are hostile to Brown retort that Blair has found his own centre and no longer



Hard men: yesterday's independent photomontage of Gordon Brown's mob

depends so much on anyone; they imply that his old friend, who remains one of New Labour's key mtellectuals and who has grown steadily in influence, can be difficult for Blair, a little younger and a little less experienced in the Labour movement, to handle.

Well, we are in murky waters here, which will not be finally probed until the historians arrive. (And what fun they will have.) But one thing is clear. It is that the prospects of a New Labour government hanging together would be immeasurably strengthened by a quiet dinner between Brown and Cook, at which they buried their hatchets in the floor. Conversely, the ultimate Blairite nightmare would be a battle royal between the two of them. with Brown representing hardline New Labour and Cook leading the more radical wing of the party. At this point, the lessons of the

Thatcher-Major years become partic-

ularly interesting. The Labour Party is not excited about Westminster sovereignty in the way that the Tories are, but any such struggle would inevitably swirl around the same European/economic policy area that so plagues the Conservatives, If Blair arrives at Number 10 in May, then one of his longterm tactical objectives must be to

ensure that this never happens. It seems as if the lesson from the Major government is straightforward and has clearly been understood by Blair: trying to balance one faction against another, or playing off one assertive minister against another, is a mug's game and will merely convey the impression of weakness and drift. I suspect that much of Blair's "I'll lead from the centre" speech this week was directly intended to answer the Major

ber Cabinet of unbelievers and survived potential rifts over Europe for many years before being finally brought down by a general cabinet revolt. There was no one, not even Nigel Lawson, whom she did not personally dominate. Her relationship with "her" electorate was direct, and for many people almost bypassed the Tory party. Ergo, Blair musi create for himself a Cabinet in his own image to

match the new Blairise electorate. But both of these obvious lessons contain serious flaws. What brought Thatcher down was the same thing that had sustained her for so long - her dependence on a court, cut off from the daily doings of the party at Westminster, and infected by hubris. From there came the poisonous briefings against cabinet ministers. In the end, the Cabmet reminded her that they mattered, in the most brutal possible way.

Meanwhile, the underrated John Major has a Jesson to teach Labour too. He has, after all, been a remarkable survivor. And why? Partly because he cleverly and thoughtfully drew on side his most dangerous Tory rivals, Michael Heseltine above all. He expended time, charm and ingenuity to keeping the vital ministers with him, even when he was privately irritated with them. It worked, given the huge ideological strains pulling at his party, remarkahly well.

So the simple opposition between a "successful, strong leader". (Thatcher) and a "weak, failed leader" (Major) may he good populist propa-ganda for Blair; but it would be dangerous for him entirely to believe it himself. He is right to insist on strong leadership and a personal direction. A political reformist with Thatcher's energy and sense of direction would be a great thing for this country. But he needs to be a constant charmer too; in a parliamentary system, leaders who The Thatcher lesson seems equally get too far ahead of their colleagues clear. She slowly but steadily stripped and parties meet swift and sticky ends.



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business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

SFA rejects former Barings chief's claims by imposing three-year City ban with £10,000 costs penalty

Hopkins: Was he a whistle-blower or just negligent?

Michael Harrison

lan Hopkins, the "whistlehlower" who says he alerted Barings to the huge losses being run up in Singapore by the bank's rogue trader Nick Leeson, was vesterday banned from the City for three years and ordered to pay £10,000 costs after the Securities and Futures Authority rejected his version of events.

Announcing the results of disciplinary proceedings against Mr Hopkins, former head of group (reasury and risk at Barings investment Bank, the SFA dismissed claims that his warnings were ignored by more se-

nior Barings executives, Nick Durlacher, the SFA chairman, said: "The facts do not support this suggestion. An impartial trihunal has scrupulously considered all the available evidence and judged that Mr Hopkins did not blow the whistle' with any clarity, force or urgency. On the contrary, the tribunal found that his actions fell far short of the standards expected of a prudent man in such

a senior position. Last night Mr Hopkins, who refused to appear before the trihunal but waged a highly publie campaign to clear his name, rejected the SFA's findings but said he would not contest them.

gratuitously vindictive terms" in act with "due skill care and diliwhich they had been expressed and repeated his claim that he had been victimised for refusing to plead guilty to lesser charges and thus escape with only a reprimand, as some other Barings executives have.

Mr Hopkins said that during a telephone conversation with Mr Durlacher in January last year he was led to helieve that the SFA would accept such a deal, allowing him to remain a "fit and proper person" and thus be eligible for readmission to the SFA's list of directors. But he was not prepared to agree to something that was untrue "however seductive the proposition".

Mr Hopkins went on: "I am surprised that the SFA has been able to achieve so much certainty in its view of what did and did not happen, and about who said what to whom, in the face of so much documented and circumstantial evidence to the contrary."

Mr Hopkins maintained that

had his warnings and recommendations been acted upon. then Leeson's fraud would have been uncovered three months before his illegal dealings in the Tokyo futures market brought the bank crashing down with losses of £800m in February 1995. However, the inbunal ruled

gence" in his job of managing the day-to-day working capital and credit needs of Leeson as his losses mounted and had therefore ceased to be fit and prop-

er to be registered as a director. Mr Hopkins declined to appear at the three-day hearing in January, saying be could not afford the very substantial costs of attending. Had he contested the charges, he would have had to bear all the costs of the trihunal, including those of the SFA which retained a leading QC to plead its case.

However, Mr Hopkins did lodge a large amount of written evidence with the tribunal, including his testimony to the Commons Treasury Committee investigation into the affair, letters from former colleagues and six separate memoranda to his bosses sent between No-vember 1994 and January 1995.

In one of them he said, with reference to Barings (Futures) Singapore Limited, that "our systems and control culture are distinctly flaky". In another, dated 7 November 1994, he proposed the appointment of an Asian regional treasurer to Barings Investment Bank but this was blocked on cost grounds He also quoted from the re-



Disciplined: Ian Hopkins, whose version was rejected by the SFA

port of the inspectors appointed by Singapore's Finance Min-ister, who concluded: "In our view the collapse might have been averted if Mr Hopkins' concerns had been taken seriously, and acted upon promptand effectively."

However, the tribunal conchided that none of Mr Hopkins' memoranda or submissions constituted an adequate defence. Mr Hopkins knew that funds being advanced to Leeson from London to cover his increasing financial exposure on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange remained unreconciled. These fireds, known as the topup, stood at £100m in September, 1994 and had risen to £306m by

the time Barings collapsed. But, said the tribunal, he failed to control or reconcile these top-ups and failed to advise the bank's asset and liability committee, its management committee and its chief execu-

tive, Peter Norris, of the lack of reconciliation or take steps to stem the mounting exposure.

He also failed to alert superiors to the fact that Leeson was both in charge of trading in Sin-gapore and the back office nction of reconciling each day's trading, even though an internal audit report bad mistakenly stated that customer statement reconciliations took place in London.

Morgan lands £100m from Redrow sale

· his move to Jersey reduced his

commitment to Redrow, of

time of the float in May 1994,

"I wanted to sell more at the

which he remains chairman.

Funding crisis threatens Taskforce 2000

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Taskforce 2000, the group set up by the Government to raise awareness about the looming computer millennium problem. is facing an imminent funding crisis which could force the organisation to close later this year, despite commitment by ministers to publicise the issue.

Funding for the taskforce, set up last year with a £170,000 grant from the Department of Trade and Industry, runs out at the end of this month. No hudget has been allocated for the next financial year. If the Government fails to provide more money, the taskforce would be left with less than £100,000

from other commercial donors. Margaret Joachim, a computer consultant and one of three senior staff on full-time secondment to the taskforce. warned that the organisation's work had not been completed. She said: "We bave undoubtedly raised awareness, but that is only the first stage of informing large and small businesses about the problem. This is a real difficulty for whichever party wins the election. We have a bit of money left over for the next financial year but it won't last

The millennium problem has arisen because most computer systems in the world can only recognise the last two digits of a year and will not be able to cope with the date change in the year 2000. Programmes used by retailers are already rejecting date-coded products and credit

cards with expiry dates beyond 2000, assuming they are almost

Solving the problem is fore-cast to cost industry billions of pounds, while the DTI recently estimated the Government alone would need to spend £1bn to sort out its computer networks. Computer experts fear systems could shut themselves down after the date

change, causing chaos."

A DTI spokeswoman confirmed that no new cash had so far been allocated to the body. "We're committed to the objectives and are ready to listen to any case they want to put to ns about their future plans."

The latest threat to Taskforce 2000 is an embarrassment to lan Taylor, minister for Science and Technology, who set up the organisation and who has turned the issue into a personal crusade. Mr Taylor's obsession with the issue has already raised the eyebrows of other ministers.

Apart from its three seconded senior staff, two of whom are paid for by their existing em-ployers, the taskforce has the free loan of a City of London office and two secretaries. Most of the cash has been spent on publicity material and work carried out by a public relations

So far the organisation has revealed a worrying lack of in-terest in the issue from large companies. A recent letter to privatised utilities asking what precautions they were taking to protect their computer databases neceived replies from just

Orange claims first place in mobile race

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Orange, the digital mobile phone network, yesterday claimed undisputed market leadership over its three rivals in the race to sign up customers, and predicted a substantial increase in revenue from subscribers.

Announcing results for last year. Orange said its customer hase was growing at a rate of more than 30,000 net new subscribers a month this year, easily heating Vodafone. Celinet and

Hans Snook, group managing director, said Orange had more than 850,000 customers at the end of February, following a 107 per cent increase to 785,000 last

He said: "We're attracting more of the better quality subscribers than any of our competitors. All the information we have from statisticians and dealers and distributors says that we are undoubtedly the fastestgrowing network this year."

The news boosted Orange's share price, which slumped last year after fears of a price war with its rivals. The shares closed 5p higher at 219p.

The group's revenue per subscriber, one of the most closely watched statistics in the industry, remained stable at £442 a year on average, compared with £444 at the end of 1995. Its share of the mobile market increased from 7 per cent to 11.5 per cent, and it took 28.5 per cent of new customers

Graham Howe, finance director, forecast that Orange would break even, excluding interest charges and depreciation, by the middle of this year. He said

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4729 40 + 0.20

+2.70

+2.8t

FTSE 100

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FTSE Att-Share 2163.94

the company was still on course to make a profit in 1998-99.

Another boost is expected from the hike in the wholesale charge Orange makes for incoming calls from BT's fixed phone network, which went up last month from op a minute to around 14p. Based on existing usage patterns, the increase would raise average revenues per subscriber from £58 to £135. increasing the overall annual spend to £520. Mr Howe explained: "You will probably find the real increase is a bit lower because people will make fewer incoming calls, but there will still be a rise in revenues from an already strong base."

Mr Howe claimed Orange's low churn levels, which measure how quickly customers switch to rival operators, meant its customer base was more valuable. Churn rose only slightly last year to 18.6 per cent from 18.1 per cent in 1995, though the figure is still the lowest in the industry.

Orange's numover last year rose by 171 per cent to £619m. including the impact of acquisitions. Losses before tax jumped from £141m to £229m, reflecting a surge in staff numbers and an extra £220m invested in building up the network.

Separately, Cancall, the Danish mobile phone maker owned by Alan Sugar's Amstrad group. launched what it claimed was the world's first handset which could work on both sides of the Atlantic.

The move comes as all the mobile networks are expanding opportunities for so-called "global roaming", where customers can use their phones on different networks around the word. The Dancall phone will work on two different wave bands used by mohile networks in the UK and

STOCK MARKETS

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to be made by selling now'

Patrick Tooher

Steve Morgan, one of Britain's richest individuals, is set to raise almost £100m through the sale of a 25 per cent stake founded in 1974 with a £5,000

loan from his father. Mr Morgan said the main purpose of the sale was for faminvestment reasons. He denied it was linked to his move last year to Jersey for personal tax reasons even though he will avoid a capital gains bill of up to £40m on the deal because of the Channel Island's generous tax regime.

There is no tax gain to be

sisted. The husiness has come that neither the share sale nor on greatly in the last 12 months and I feel it is not really appropriate for one shareholder to own more than 50 per cent of a public company

stake in Redrow, held via his Bridgemere Holdings company, cut from just under 60 per cent to about 35 per cent. Some 54 million shares will be placed by stockbrokers BZW and Cazenove with institutional investors.

Shares in Redrow fell 5.5p to 169.5p on the news, valuing Mr Morgan's total investment at

Mr Morgan, who floated Clwyd-based Redrow on the stockmarket in 1994, stressed

huilding industry then did not really allow it," he added. Day-to-day running Redrow is in the hands of Paul

Pedley, managing director who is also selling a small parcel of 475,000 shares, worth £805,000 at last night's close News of Mr Morgan's share

sale came as Redrow released interim figures for the six months to December showing a 36 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £16.4m oo sales 29 per cent

ahead at £123m. Earnings per share rose from 3.9p to 5.2p while the interim dividend was raised from 1.1 to 1.2p. Housing completions totalled 1,317 units in the half, up from 1,082, ing more than 5 per cent to £93,200, mainly reflecting an in-

crease in the average size of house sold. Mr Morgan noted that al-though house price inflation had been strongest in the south-east, a ripple effect was now being seen across the country. "As a result there is every reason to

believe that the current market is sustainable," he said. Mr Morgan is credited as one

of the few housebuilders who

the recession and the housing crash hit the whole sector in the into the market with the pur-

called the top of the market in 1988 and 1989, selling the com-

pany's entire landbank before

chase of Costain Homes for £70m, which expanded Redrow from its base in the north-west

of England into the south east. Mr Morgan denied his wellpublicised move to Jersey. where he reportedly paid £6.5m to buy the Trinity Manor estate, was linked to fears that an incoming Labour government would increase the top rate of income tax. "I'm not a political animal," he maintained.

Fund manager vulnerable after stake sale

Edinhurgh Fund Managers was yesterday left exposed as a potential hid target for European and US banks after the British Coal pension schemes disposed of its 32.5 per cent shareholding in the fund management group.

The placing forms part of a complex and inter-locking deal by the pension schemes that will reduce EFM's funds under management by 11 per cent, or

the weakening of its position, said it still had control over £6.7bn of funds and added that it would take less than two years to recoup the lost business. In a series of deals, the pen-

sion schemes are liquidating their 85 per cent stake in the British Investment Trust (BIT). which itself is being wound up. This will release the minority shareholders who have been locked into the trust since the pension schemes bought the

£900m. However, EFM, alert to majority stake nearly 20 years

BIT's £60m stake in EFM. worth around £185m, is being placed in the market through James Capel and Pannure Gordon. BIT shares rose 25p to 264p on the news.

The pension schemes and BIT are also placing their stakes worth £90m in six EFM investment trusts, which will in effect sever all links with EFM.

EFM will continue to manage a £383m Smaller Companies

pension schemes and the rollover unit trust for minority holders in BIL And EFM expects to acquire an extra £500m worth of funds this year alone.

Meanwhile, EFM released its results for 1996 showing that while fee income rose by 60 per cent and operating profit by 65 per cent last year, pre-tax profit fell by 2 per cent after shouldering the exceptional costs of the merger with Dunedin Fund

Football clubs aim to relegate owners' rules

Patrick Tooher

Football clubs outside the elite Premier League are mounting a campaign to relax archaic ownership rules they say favour the bigger teams.

If successful, the move will

make it easier for institutional

investors to take greater advantage of the recent crop of football flotations by spreading their risk and taking sizeable stakes in more than one club. At the moment Football League rules bar an investor who owns more than 1 per cent of a club outside the Premiership from holding more than 1 per cent of another team. A less restrictive 10 per cent rule op-

erates for Premier League clubs

hut both are under review. The campaign to change the Football League's rules is being spearheaded by Sheffield United of the Nationwide First Division, which became a quoted company in January via reverse takeover of the Courad leisure group.

You can own 5 per cent of ICI and Courtaulds but not 5 per cent of Sheffield United and Manchester United. That's a nonsense," said Charles Green, the cluh's chief executive. Three directors of Manches

ter United, including Sir Bobby Chariton, still own shares in Sheffield United as a legacy of the Conrad deal, though none breaches the I per cent rule. Following the reverse takeover Mike Edelson, a Manchester United director who ran Conrad, resigned as a director of Sheffield United to avoid a conflict of interest

Mr Green claimed the Football League's ownership rules

were based oo the "Dickensian theory" that the outcome of a match could be influenced if an individual owned more than 1 per cent of more than one club. There is an acceptance that

rules draw up 150 years ago are not relevant now," he added. His comments were backed by Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander Investment Funds, which invests in football clubs. "With the likes of Birmingham City and Charlton Athletic coming to the market it means they cannot be supported if an investor has a stake in a Premier League club. The rule continues to assist the Premier League clubs and widens the gulf that already exists between them and the rest of football."

Sheffield United is pressing for the ownership rules to be changed at the League's annual meeting in July.
The Premier League is in

talks with the Department of Trade and Industry about agree-ing a higher ownership limit before its annual meeting in June. Mike Lee, a spokesman, said

the review was aimed at preserving the integrity of the game and governing the chang-ing pattern of investment. Comment, page 19



Porterbrook report delayed beyond election Michael Harrison profit, would almost certainly month, netting a £316m profit to Parliament, bad not been under any political pressure to

The report by Sir John Bourn. bead of the National Audit Office, into the Government's controversial sale of the three train leasing companies, is not now expected to be published before the election. The results of his investigation

into the three businesses, two of which were subsequently sold on by their managements at a vast

have made for uncomfortable reading had they been made

public before polling day.

In the case of one of the companies. Porterbrook, the management and City financial institutions made a £400m profit on the resale of the business to Stagecoach. Another of the leasing companies, Eversholt, was sold on to a subsidiary of the banking group HSBC last

for its managers and venture capital hackers. Sandy Andersen, the manag-

ing director of Porterbrook, made an estimated £46m ont of the Stagecoach takeover while his opposite number at Eversholt, Andrew Jukes, is estimated to have made almost £16m.

Whitehall sources said that the NAO, which is an entirely independent body reporting direct

delay publication. Sources said that Sir John's report was "some weeks" away from completion. Once an election is called he is not able to publish any reports. Since this could happen in the next formight, even though the country may not go to the polls until I May, it effectively rules out publication while the present Government is still in office.

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Cris



Just imagine the outcry if Mercury Asset Management

was banned from owning more than 1 per cent of Granada because it had more than 1 per cent of Carlton'

Big money will triumph in this football tussle

who owns more than 1 per cent of a club from clubs, but not much. Here the threshold is 10 per cent for owning more than 10 per cent of a rival. The point of these rules, 10 use the pompous sounding language of the league, is to maintain the integrity of the game" - ie to stop match-fixing or similar-

ly motivated player transfers. In the old days when football was not a game from which anyone other than the top players expected to make any money, this was all well and good. But now with the game's business potential well recognised and with so many clubs either listed or seeking a listing on the stock market, the rules are being tested to the limit. Sheffield United yesterday added its voice to the chorus of those demanding change.

There is no other stock market sector gov-

erned by rules of this type. Just imagine the outcry if Mercury Asset Management was hanned from owning more than 1 per cent of Granada because it had more than 1 per cent of Carlton. As far as institutional shareholders are concerned, the rules are almost certainly unwarranted. It seems hard to believe that Carol Galley of MAM would attempt to fix a match because it suited her

go further so that one football chih can own owning more than 1 per cent of another. The or control another outright. The business rules are a little lighter for Premier League attractions of such consolidation are obvious, allowing clubs to share the costs of marketing, merchandising, ticketing and other overheads. But does it make for a credible League? The dangers are as obvious as the attractions. Is it really possible for two clubs to compete properly with each other when they have a common owner and manager? Ownership of clubs would become concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, and the gap between rich and poor clubs would widen with the birth of nursery, or feeder, chibs, serving their larger masters. Over time the lower football divisions might disappear altogether.

There's not much doubt who will eventually triumph in this debate, however. As always, it will be money.

We're finally getting real about Europe

There is a neat irony in the fact that the great and the good of British industry have ganged together to tug the UK closer to Europe just as German Eurosceptics have mustered their forces to try and prevent Ger-Durposes that someone other than Man many from going in to the single currency. United won the League that year - hard to In fact these apparently conflicting tenden-

has made too much of the running, while the debate in Germany has been stifled by the official religion of ever-closer European integration

On this side of the Channel the businessmen writing to the Financial Times have brought to public attention the potential costs of becoming detached from the European market. Our right-wing Europhobes have used suspicion of the single currency to get the question of outright withdrawal from the EU onto the political

As the businessmen point out, even to talk of this costs investment and jobs. Britain has a real economic interest in remaining a committed member of the EU and the single market, and this has implications for the way Britain conducts its debate over the single currency. This element of the calculus has heen drowned out until now by the pucrile political uproar over EMU.

In Germany the missing element has been what price the country will have to pay for joining the Euro. The political estab lishment there has been so insistent that Germany will not sacrifice its strong currency because the Maastricht criteria will not be fudged, and so committed to closer integration, that the other costs have been skated over.

These costs are not the obvious spending

industrial subsidies, allow old industries to die and deregulate their labour and goods markets anyway. Maastricht is both an

incentive to do it and a handy scapegoat.

The real cost of joining EMU will he swapping the mark for a softer currency and handing monetary policy to an institution that will probably not be as tough as the Bundesbank. In the eyes of German public opin-ion, this might turn out to be too high a price to pay for closer European links and a more complete single market

One thing is certain; that the outlook for EMU is becoming less certain. Will it happen on time? Will it go ahead at all? Who will be in? The financial markets will have plenty of opportunity for fun as opinion about these questions shifts during the next 12 to 18 months. What is reassuring is that the quality of the economic policy debate about the single currency has taken a dra-matic turn for the better, thanks to the British Europhiles and the German EMU

Hopkins penalised for not going quietly

When big money meets sport, the result believe for everyone except Sir Rocco Forte is not always a harmonions one. And clear Football League rules bar an investor who owns more than 1 per cent football's new investors want to who owns more than 1 per cent football and Greg Dyke, that is.

Leeson's bosses at the time of the Barings collapse. Mr Hopkins' undoing seems to have been not that he failed to supervise and control to reduce the level of would have had to reduce the level of the supervise and control to reduce the level of the supervise and control to the supervise and control to reduce the level of the supervise and control to reduce the supervise and contro trol the rogue Singapore trader adequately but that he refused to plea bargain with the regulators in return for a light sentence and instead embarked on a highly public campaign to clear his name

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that he has been penalised for presenting himself as the man who tried to blow the whistle as much as anything else. Washing dirty linen in public as opposed to behind the closed doors of an SFA tribunal is a high-risk strat-

Yesterday Mr Hopkins paid the price. He has been hanned from the City for three years, ordered to pay £10,000 towards the SFA's costs, and branded as someone who

is not fit and proper to he a director. Would he have fared any better had he appeared before the tribunal to argue his case? It is hard to say hut whatever the outcome he would have been a fot poorer having been landed with all the costs, including those of the SFA which has hired the lead

counsel at the Scott inquiry to press its case. How much simpler it would have been had Mr Hopkins come quietly and agreed to accept a reprimand in return for acknowledging his culpability. He would now be free to resume his livelihood. The SFA may have There is a form of rough justice in the City and vesterday it was meted out in no uncertain fashion to Ian Hopkins, one of Nick the SFA has weakened its standing. got its man but public sympathy is going to be with Mr Hopkins. And if that is true, then

Zeneca profits pass £1bn mark

Magnus Grimond

Zeneca, the UK's third-largest drugs group, yesterday revealed that profits broke through the f1bu barrier for the first time last year and dismissed suggestions that its soaring share price had been puffed up by bid hopes, Unveiling record profits, turnover and exports, Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said he

performance were at the upper the past 12 months. We are end of its sector but not above. confident the few remaining il, he said. Most of the shafe, outstanding issues can be re-price is justified on fundamental solved with the FDA to their sat-tals and contains no bid specutisfaction and we hope these lation within it, he claimed issues will be resolved by the end

exceptionals to £1.01bu for products under development, 1996, the shares fell from the all-cactuding the Zomig anti-mitime peak hit on Monday, drop-ping 42p to £18.605. Dealers Glaro last year, which has won blamed profit taking after their UK approval, and the Seroquel strong performance this year

and worries that Zeneca had only one drug in its late-stage

development pipeline.

But the group reiterated its aim of achieving average annual carnings growth of 15 per cent over the next five years by building a leading position in anti-cancer drugs and certain agrochemicals, while enhancing its position in other drug areas. Sir David attempted to calin. did not believe there was anything by way of speculation in the share price, which has tripled since the group was demerged from ICI in mid-1993, partly on hopes the company-will be bid for by a big rival such as Roche of Switzerland.

The yardsticks by which analysis measured the group's Macterial plant, which manufacturing process. Sir David said 20 inspections of the plant had been completed alysis measured the group's had been completed to calinder and the group's Macterial plant, which manufacturing process. alysts measured the group's: by a variety of regulators over

schizophrenia treatment due products. The group plans to



for launch this year. Pharma-raise its US sales force from ture with a Dutch group, were Despite news of a 15 per cent, of the month, he said.

Conticals profits grew 10 per cent rise in underlying profits before.

The group said it had 18 new to £757m, or 6 per cent executionals to £1.01bn for products under development, cluding exchange movements. cluding exchange movements, but Zeneca warned margins would continue to be constrained by the development and marketing costs of new

Zestril, the group's heart drug which goes off patent in 2001, grew sales 11 per cent to £547m in 1996, while Zoladex was up 28 per cent at £333m. Operating losses in the seeds

while, restructuring of the speciality chemicals operations, shorn of the specialty inks and textile colours arms last year. pushed profits up a quarter to

lavestment column, page 20

Scotia shares crash as diabetes drug is rejected

Magnus Grimond

The power of national drug reg-ulators to move markets in pharmaceuticials companies was demonstrated vividly yes-terday. Scotia Holdings, the hiotechnology group, saw £189m wiped off its market value at one stage after an-nouncing that the British health authorities had declined to clear for sale a diabetes drug. At the other end of the scale. shares in Glaxo Wellcome, the world's biggest drugs group, were spurred on to new peaks after Sweden approved its new Naramig migraine treatment a follow on to its blockhuster

Imigran drug. Scotia's shares crashed 245p before recovering to end 135p down at 435p after the company said it had received verbal noine UKS Medicines Control Agency that it could not at present recommend marketing approval for Tarabetic, a drug for treating di-abetic neuropathy. The MCA is a key part of the process by which the Ministry of Health

vets new drugs coming on to the The approval by the Swedish

Analysts suggest Scotia's drug could achieve sales of anywhere between £50m and £400m, but David Horrobin, chief executive, suggested the market had overreacted: "This is potenually an important drug, but it is only one of 10 or so projects of equal importance. The problem follows a meet-

ing of the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, an advisory body to the MCA, which has raised concerns about the drug's efficacy. But Mr Horrobin questioned the expertise of the committee's members, saying none of them was expert in the field of diabetic nerve damage. He claimed the 10 to 15 people in all "very strongly" in favour of

the arug. Yesterday's regulatory set-Naramig migraine treatment, "user fee" with formerly called naratriptum, the process.

Medical Products Agency means it will compete in Europe with Zeneca's Zomig, which it was announced vesterday has won UK approval.

Glaxo is confident the new treatment will not compete with its Imigran drug, which it claims is used by only 7 per cent of migraine sufferers. The clearance is the first stage to marketing a drug which analysis suggest could reach sales of £200m by 2000. The drug industry has grown

used to these moments of despair and elation after enduring a generation of an approval process born of the Thalidomide scandal of the early 1960s. The process of gaining approvals for drugs lengthened unthe UK who he described as til in the 1980s it was taking 12 "real experts" in this area were years from patenting a new compound to getting it on to the market. Since then, a new soirit of commercialism has taken back for Tarabetic came as root among the regulators. The Glaxo Wellcome saw its shares all-powerful Food and Drug Adrise 36.5p to a new high of ministration offers drugs com-£11.54, partly on hopes for its panies the option of paying a "user fee" which can speed up

Nomura shares | HSBC job for former exchange chief dive as clients turn elsewhere

Richard Lloyd Parry

Shares in Nomura Securities, vesterday fell to their lowest level in more than four and a Employees Retirement System. half years, and at least 10 large clients announced that they (Japan) yesterday the flight of the brokerage after revelations about a trading scandal linking the company with extortionists.

to ¥1,370, about 700p, making the ground lost to be recov-a 13 per cent drop since last ered, said David Threadgold. Thursday when it announced that two directors illegally funnelled trading profits to a company linked to a racketeer. At least 10 institutional in-ese finance, as the government

vestors have suspended business with Nomura since the scandal, and the company's president. Hideo Sakamaki, has indicated that he will probably resign within the next few weeks.

pronounced Nomura unworthy of trading on its behalf. Among the other companies which have suspended their business are Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co, the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan, Sumitomo Trust and Banking. and Mitsui Trust and Banking.

Even the US subsidiary, Nomura investment Management has stopped business with its parent company in Tokyo, as has Calpers, the California Public

e company with extortionists. and underwriting new securities.

Nomura's shares fell by *100 **It could take several years for

BZW's analyst in Tokyo.

The scandal, and the ensuing losses, come at a time of increasing uncertainty in Japanembarks on a long-awaited pro-gramme of deregulation intended to improve competitiveness - Japan's so-called

Big Bang ... According to Ayako Sato, of The Japanese government's UBS Securities, a change of Pension Fund Association has management in Nomura may delay efforts to devise effective Big Bang counter-measures" On Monday, two managing directors of Nomura resigned: Yesterday, executives of a second Japanese company were arrested on charges that they paid large sums to a so-called sokaiya - a gangster.

Affordable Healthcare

Lifetime Colline Health Care

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

HSBC Holdings, the parent company of the Midland and Hongkong banks, has appointed Paul Chow, the Hong Kong stock carbange's former chief executive, as the deputy chief executive officer of its money management arm, HSBC Asset Management.

The 49-year-old Mr Chow is a resolutely low-key technocrat who ran the stock exchange for five years without producing any sparks or making any notable mistakes. His style of management was

collegiate, allowing more flamboyant executives to hog the limelight while he plodded away at his task of making the mar-

Growth is highly valued in Houg Kong and Mr Chow is credited with presiding over a period during which the capi-talisation of the exchange grew fourfold, mirroring the increase in trading volume. However, unlike some of his

predecessors, Mr Chow has not moved into a prime position in. the private sector. Instead, he will in effect be the numberthree man at HSBC Asset Management, which, unlike the parent company, remains based in Hong Kong.

Mr Chow will report to chief executive officer, and to Kevin Gregory, the global chief operating officer. This makes him the most senior Chinese executive.

business, now part of a joint ven-

Despite the Hongkong Bank's notable efforts to localise its executive strength, Mr Dug-gins denied that Mr Chow's ethnicity had anything to do with his appointment. He stressed the importance of his hackground and experience, both at the exchange and at the Sun Hung Kai group, one of the largest local finance companies.

The post he will fill is a new one focusing mainly on the group's operational and support functions. Mr Duggins sees Mr Chow taking charge of strategic development plans for Hong Kong China, Taiwan and Korea. He said that the deregulation of markets in these areas presented opportunities: "We

need someone of Paul's calibre [to oversee this area]." Mr Chow has allowed himself a four-month period of distance from the stock exchange, following his resignation at the end of last year. The good thing about joining a fund manage-ment company is that there is no apparent conflict of interest," said Mr Duggins. Fund managers are basically market consumers rather than sellers.

HSBC Asset Management, one of East Asia's higgest fund managers, has had a patchy performance record, leading to a number of reorganisations. Robert Duggins, the company's However, it turned in a sterling performance last year as funds under management rose by 87 per cent to \$44.5bn (£27.7bn).



Expanding: The Hong Kong stock exchange grew fourfold during Paul Chow's period in charge

When Paul Chow left the stock exchange its bouse magazine, the Securities Journal, hailed his departure with the immodest headline, The maestro departs". This was backed up by a survey of market practition-

ers who gave him high marks for his period of office. One dealer

was quoted as saying:

"Hong Kong loves a techno-crat, and Paul Chow has been the most visible technocrat for

Mercury men move to C&W board

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Cable & Wireless yesterday announced the latest round of senior job appointments at C&W Communications, its £5bn TV and telephony group formed out of the proposed merger of Mercury Communications and cable operators Nynex CableComms

and Bell Cahlemedia. Seven management board jobs were made, in addition to the three senior executives already appointed. Three further jobs have still to be filled, raising further questions about

whether C&W can complete the merger in line with its internal target of April. The three remaining posts are understood to to be chief executive of Merbe legal affairs, information systems and marketing.

Five of the seven appointments are Mercury executives Darren Entwistle, Adrian Chamberlain, Rob Fisher, Devid Wickham and Ian Hinchliffe. The other two are Gilles Leclerc, from Bell Cablemedia. and Ted Hatch, from Nynex Ca-

Peter Howell-Davies, Mercuty's chief executive, has not been given a post in the merged

group. Graham Wallace, C&W Communications' chief executive, said: "Peter will continue

Mr Wallace dismissed speculation that the appointments had been delayed by haggling over contract terms. Rumours suggested Dick Brown, C&W's American chief executive, had asked that candidates for the new senior management team accept jobs with just a month's notice period. However, Mr Wallace said: "This speculation is absolutely wrong. It is

In Brief

Labour work plan would cost £1.5bn

The Labour Party's plans to get the long-term unemployed back to work would have a net cost of only £1.5bn over five years and would reduce unemployment by nearly 450,000, according to a paper published yesterday by the Employment Policy Institute. The research, by Labour adviser Professor Richard Layard of the London School of Economics, concludes that enough money to kick-start the scheme could be raised by the windfall tax on the privatised utilities. The cost of running the scheme of about £4.5hn would be offset, according to Professor Layard, by savings in benefits and additional tax receipts which he estimates at £3bn.

Recruitment market gathers pace

The huoyant recruitment market shows no sign of slowing down. according to recently floated recruitment specialists Robert Walters. The company said the recruitment cycle should have a further two or three years to run before it reached its peak. Reporting an 86 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.9m. Robert Walters said it was looking at opening an office in Frankfurt this year to complement offices in Hong Kong. Auckland and Wellington. The founder, Robert Walters, said he had no plans to sell any further shares. The company reported a maiden dividend of 1.5p.

Granada and YTV in talks

Granada and Yorkshire Tyne-Tees are in talks to market the whole of northern England as a single region through Laser, their television advertising sales agency. The move could be a prelude to a full hid for YTV from Granada. Investment column, page 20

Independent Insurance profits rise

independent Insurance Group announced a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, boosted by growth in some areas of its UK business while its French operation broke even. Group profits, excluding investment gains, rose from £33.3m to £40.2m, and the dividend was lifted by 18 per cent to 13.25p. Including investment movements, profits climbed 46 per cent to £52m. The profit and dividend increases were above expectations and the UK performance was "against the trend." said Michael Bright, chief executive.

DBS cleared to push for listing

DBS Management, the independent financial adviser's group, is to press ahead with plans for a stock market listing after receiving the all-clear from the Personal Investment Authority. DBS postponed its float plans in October pending a review by the PIA concerning allegations made by its former compliance director. The PIA vesterday said it had found the allegations were not supported by the evidence and no formal action would be taken.

Crunch time for Hanson

Hanson, the name that has dominated the stock market for more than a quarter of a century, should discover today whether it will be relegated from the leading F (SE 100 share index. The index's steering committee meets this afternion to decide the latest round of Footsie promotions and relegations. Compass is close to qualifying and could displace Hanson, while British Land looks set to replace Argos. Market report, page 22

Thorntons back in the black

Thorntons, the chocolate retailer, has returned to the black after exceptional items forced the group into a £14m loss last year. Profits in the six months to 11 January were £10m compared to £7.6m in the same period last year. Like-for-like sales grew by 13 per cent in the half, with current trading 11 per cent ahead.

relegal

Riches in Zeneca drugs pipeline

Few could have guessed that shares in Zeneca would triple in the space of under four years, but since the spin-off from IC1, Britain's third-higgest drugs group has developed a reputation as one of the best on the market. The question for investors is to what extent the current price reflects long-running hopes that Roche or some other deeppocketed rival may pounce and how much it is a measure of fundamental and Glazo. Hold on. prospects. The former seemed to be gaining the upper hand vesterday, with the shares dipping 42p to £18.605 on profit-taking and gripes that the company's new drugs pipeline was

looking a little empty.

That looks churlish for a company which churned out a 15 per cent rise in underlying profits before excep-tionals of £1.01bn in the year to December. More so when you add in Zeneca's "aspirational target" of Stagecoach, and on a roll. Figures for achieving 15 per cent a year average earnings growth over the next five years. There was little to quibble about in

last year's figures. More than 14 per cent of the underlying sales growth in the main pharmaceuticals husiness to £2,44bn came from products launched in the past two years. The cost of developing and launching these products is holding back profits, up an underlying 6 per cent to £757m in the division, but the prospects are encouraging. Casodex, the prostate cancer treatment, saw sales jump from £10m to £68m and now claims a 45 per cent share of the US prescriptions market. Arimidex, the breast cancer drug, managed £20m sales from a standing start last year, while Accolate. Zeneca's delayed entry into the asthma market, is said to be doing better than Glaxo's rival Flovent. The group is also excited about the

prospects for Zomig, the migraine treatment acquired from Glaxo last year. News that Zomig has won its first official approval, from the UK, will pit it against Glaxo's rival Naramig prod-uct, which has also just gained its first clearance, from Sweden,

But this is a big market and both Zomig and the Seroquel schizophrenia drug to be launched later this year are set to achieve peak sales well in excess of £200m.

These and other launches should tide the group over any temporary gap in drugs in late-stage trials, while further out, some of the 18 products in the development pipeline will come good. The company can also use its £272m net cash to plug any holes; Zestril, the group's hest-selling heart drug, was after all acquired from Merck.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN one-off cost savings, there is a political consensus to improve bus travel and, on a relatively fixed cost base, get-

Zeneca: At a stance

Market value: £17.6bn, share price £18.60

1993 1994

3.98 4.44 4.49 4.90 6.00

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Currency could hit this year's figures, so profits of £1.1bn would put the shares on a heady forward multiple of 24, but by 1998 that could have fallen to 20, in line with SmithKline Beecham

Cowie catches a bus to growth

Cowie has come a long way since its failed bid for Henlys five years ago. It is now the country's second-biggest bus operator, between FirstBus and the year to December showed a continuation of the impressive trend that has seen profits rise steadily from £11,3m in 1990 to £81,2m in the latest 12-month period, up 46 per cent. During that period, earnings per share have risen almost fivefold from 6.9p to 33.2p and the dividend from 3.7p to 12.4p (10.4p last year).

The biggest profit earner remains the finance division, although the acquisition of British Bus means it will be overtaken this year. Profits from car leasing and fleet management increased from £33.1m to

Five year record

Turnover (Ebn)...

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per share (pance)

Dividends per share (pence)

Sales by therapeutic area

£34.8m, again the latest in a long line of rises. With 40 per cent of company cars still bought, maintained and disposed of by expensive in-house departments,

there is still plenty to go for.

The motor division, while relatively small in group terms, remains a sig-nificant player in the trade, with profits of £11.7m putting it on a par with stand-alone success stories such as Pendragon. Cowie should benefit from the manufacturers' desire to rationalise the fragmented car retail system.

The biggest excitement last year, however, lay in buses, where Cowie dominates the London market and by dint of sizeable acquisitions has become a significant player nationwide. The £282m purchase of British Bus last year is still waiting on an MMC investigation, but Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, looked quietly confident yesterday that only minor tweaking where the company overlaps with Cowie's existing south London routes will be required.

Profits from buses jumped from £10m to £30.4m and with a full-year contribution from British Bus and the smaller North East Bus next time, the division will become the group's dominant arm. Although many of the benefits of the move into buses were

1995 1996

102	633	659	619	975
10.8	507	488	35.8	DLB.
	27.5	28.5	31.0	35.0
(Enz. 1996)	Share p	rice (Penc	2)	
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	enn in	No.		77.0

ting burns on seats could yield significant growth for a while yet, and at much less risk than the train franchises Cowie has (so far) failed to win.

On the basis of forecast profits of

about £105m, the shares, down 9p yes-terday at 421.5p, trade on 12 times earnings. Good value.

YTT awaits the consummation

When will Granada do the decent thing and consummate its partnership with Yorkshire Tyne-Tees, the rival commercial broadcaster from over the Pennines? Speculation that 27 per cent shareholder Granada will eventually mount a full takeover bid has seen shares in YTT almost double in the last year to touch 1,300p. To add spice to the pot, United News & Media, bolder of the Meridian and Anglia franchises, sits on 14 per cent of YTT.

Insiders reckon that on current numbers an offer of over 1,320p a share for YTT would be dilutive for Granada's shareholders. But a 40 per cent rise in YTT's pre-tax profit to £30.2m in the year to December underlines the value of its franchise. Sales rose by £9m to £271 m while fully diluted earnings per share advanced to 34.5p (25.8p) The figures were struck despite

YTT's share of national advertising revenue falling slightly from 10.7 to 10.3 per cent, partly because telecoms companies concentrated their expenditure in the south. YTT more than made up the sbortfall by controlling costs and selling more programmes.

But the real kicker for sharebolders is the prospect of early renegotiation of the levy YTT pays to the Treasury for its 16-year licence. It shells out a massive £66m a year, index-linked, for the privilege of broadcasting to Leeds and Newcastle. Levy relief could amount to more than £30m a year and begin as early as 1999. YTT is urging a return to a special duty on advertising, which would be applied to all broadcasters, including pay television operator BSkyB and the Channel Four commercial station, both currently outside the archaic licence fee system.

With that windfall in sight and a Granada bid in prospect the shares are difficult to value on fundamentals, but % they are well worth hanging on to.

Marketing guru sends his message in a bottle

consultancy, is expanding his new brewing venture. The 53year-old marketing guru bas used almost half of the £8m he made from the Interbrand sale to Omnicom two years ago to set up St Peter's Brewery, a micro-hrewery estab-lished in a 13th century manor house near Bnngay in

He has already bought three idyllic pubs nearby and today sees the launch of St Peter's Golden Ale, a bottled beer which Mr Murphy hopes to market internationally. "I'd been working for major brewers for 15 years and it struck me that even though we have a very strong brewing industry we don't bave a very strong international brand."

The beer comes in an unusual oval-shaped bottle and is described as "halfway between a lager and a bitter". It has already been accepted by Tesco. Mr Murphy hopes to secure distribution through other large supermarkets before tak-

ing the brand overseas. A stock market flotation is also under consideration for later this year to belp raise the brand's profile as well as new funds.

As if this is not enough, Mr Murphy is also chairman of Plymouth Gin, a buy-out from Allied Domecq last year. The gin will be re-lannehed in the US next month. The plan is to re-establish the historic name as one of the world's premier brands in a market dominated by Beefeater and Gordon's, "Plymouth used to be the brand that was always used in pink gin," Mr Murphy tells me. "We have great hopes for it."

Manchester United has swooped in the executive transfer market. The Premiership leaders have signed Peter Kenyon as deputy chief executive, a newly created post. Mr Kenyon, 43, who is a life-

Juan Murphy, the founder of the Interbrand marketing PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Micro-brewer: John Murphy wants an international beer brand

long United supporter, is cur-rently executive vice president and chief operating officer of Umbro Internation-

al, United's kit sponsors.

Mr Kenyon will move from
Umbro's offices in South Carolina to United's theatre of dreams at Old Trafford. His role at the club will be to develop the United brand overseas, where the market for Giggsie duvet covers and United whisky is thought to have a good deal more

Michael Spencer, head of money brokers Intercapital, has entered the London marathon in a bid to raise £10,000 for charity. The former 40-a-day man (that's fags, not miles) says he will be disappointed if he does not complete the 26-mile circuit in under four and half

He describes his training schedule as "in arrears", but hopes to catch up in a fortnight's time when he is on holiday on the Caribbean island of Mustique, "though I suppose it will be a bit warm". Mr Spencer completed 25 kilometres last week and claims the weight is falling off him. "It's great you can eat what you like and

the weight still comes off."
He is raising money for the
National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Steve Morgan, the Redrow founder, claims his retreat to the tax haven of Jersey will not affect his ability to maintain a hands-on role at the house-builder. The millionaire businessman says be can jet in from Jersey to Redrow's Clwyd head office in the same time it takes managing director Paul Pedley to pootle in from his Runcorn home.

Mr Morgan is a frequent fiyer. He regularly flies from Jersey to Liverpool just to watch his beloved Merseysiders play at Anfield.

Mike Hennessy, managing di-rector of Kalon, the paint group, is singing from a dif-ferent hymn sheet again this year. For reasons we can only guess at, Kalon chooses a different song title to accompany its results presentations each time. Last year it was "More than I can Say." This time it was "Somewhere over the Rainbow". This was selected to reflect the possibilities of the merger with Euridep, the French group.

Nigel Cope

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BBA returns to growth and hits the acquisition trail

Clifford German

BBA, the acquisitive engineer. yesterday confirmed its return to growth after two years of reorganisation, Roberto Quarta, chief executive, reported a 19 per cent leap in pre-exceptional rofits to £141m last year and plans for a joint project to manufacture friction materials near Peking and a £4m acquiition in Italy, making hi-tech absorbent materials. But profits fell £3m short of market foreasis and the shares tumbled 17p to 350p.

Turnover at the continuing businesses rose 10 per cent to £1.08bn while operating profits

rose 26 per cent to £146m. Earnings per share were up a quarter to 20.6p and the dividend rose from op to 7p.

After allowing for exceptional charges of £52m in 1995, pre-tax profits more than doubled to £142m. The acquisition of the remaining 32 per cent stake in Signature Flight Support in August, and Corovin, a non-woven textile business in Germany, cost £97m. An agreement to buy International Airmotive in Dallas for £176m was signed in December.

Corovin will give the group access to new technology which can be adapted throughout the group's non-woven hygiene

business and provide access to new markets in Thailand, Saudi Arabia and South Africa, Duralay, the carpet underlay manufacturer, was sold for £34m.

Turnover was equally split between the transportation and industrial divisions, but profits were split 40:60. The friction materials division overcame weak sales in Germany in the first half of the year and a downturn in the commercial vehicle market in Europe and Scandinavia in particular. The LIK market was buoyant and BBA won new orders from Nissan and Rover.

In the US, BBA Friction won new orders from Ford and

Chrysler and capacity at the Virginia plant is being doubled to meet increased demand. Signature won new ground handling and baggage contracts and the acquisition of International Airmotive adds engine overhaul and parts distribution

The US market generated 56 per cent of turnover and 51 per cent of profit. Capital spending edged up to £46m, but cash-flow was strong, net borrowing was halved to £16m and gearing fell from 7 to 4 per cent.

Management has been exploiting synergies between the new and old businesses and developing new markets.

BSE and strong pound hinder Harrisons

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Shares in Harrisons & Crosfield fell 9p yesterday to 131.5p after the chemicals, food and timber group painted a gloomy picture of current trading and claimed to be a victim of both BSE in ts food and agriculture arm and the strong pound in speciality

Operating profits from continuing businesses nudged ahead from £98.1m to £99.7m, while at the pre-tax line, which included

a final contribution from the now sold plantation business, profits rose by a similar margin to £120.8m (£119.6m). Adjusted earnings per share were 11.1p (11p), while the dividend was maintained at 9p.

Bill Turcan, chief executive, put a brave face on the figures, saying: "Our chemical businesses had another good year and timber and building supplies recovered well in the second half. We completed our withdrawal from plantations and the group is well placed to take advantage

uing business Analysts were less sanguine,

however, with forecasts for the current year being pared yes-terday to about £117m. One said: The comment on the food side is what has unsettled people. The implication is that 1997 estimates

are looking too toppy."
Chemicals, where Harrisons specialises in chrome and pigments, saw profits rise 12 per cent to £55.9m, at which level they have doubled in five years, with an increase in return on

of opportunities for growth in its sales from 5.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent over that period.

The timber division, which takes in the Harcros builders' merchants, saw profits tumble from £21.9m to £15.3m, All the damage was caused in the first half, and Mr Turcan said Harcros was now seeing the benefit of actions to reduce its cost base and

sharpen its trading focus. Food and agriculture, where operating profits increased from £31.6m to £33.5m, suffered from the effects of BSE, which reduced demand for cattle feed.

	Compa	ny mean	(3	
	Ternover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
BRA Siresp (F)	1.10bc (1.18bn)	141.1m (119.5m)	20.5p (16.5p)	4.9p (4.2p)
Biotrace (F)	5.03m (3.41m)	-1.24m (-1.5m)	-4.02p (-4.82p)	n)
BPP Holdings (F)	75.54m (65.49m)	9.75m (8.5m)	22.9p (19.5p)	130 (11.20)
Britton Group (F)		30.42m (18.33m)	10 Sp (10 18p)	3.30 (3.00)
Cowie Group (F)	1 12hs (1hn)	81.2m (55.8m)	33.2p (25.8p)	12.40 (10.40)
Cossins Property (F)	26.74m (24.54m)	1.9m (1.71m)	8.8p (8.7p)	4.1p (3.9p)
Editabetral: Pand Myrs (F)	31.13m [19.62m]	12.5m (12.6m)	28.1p (45.4p)	250 (250)
Expand (F)	\$15 7m (143.9m)		19.85p (52.9p)	3.30 (30)
Ferward Testmology (F)	57.91m (58.7m)	-613,000 (3.1m)	-1.8p (5.8p)	1.250 (2.750)
Harrissus & Crossleid (F)	2.05bn (2.05bn)	120.6m (119.6m)	11.20 (10.50)	Sp (Sp)
Headway (II)	10,34m (9,35m)	813,000 (430,000	12.8p (2.0p)	0.35p (0.3p)
Ladepeadent later Brp (F)	-1-1	52m (35.5m)	80.20 (53.50)	13.25p (11.25p)
Nation Group (F)	524.8m (374.1m)	19.32m (-2.98m)	3149 (-1239)	5.20
North Midland Coast (F)	33 4m (38.4m)	1.39m (1.48m)	9.370 (9.53p)	3.0p (2.0c)
On-Lise (I)	211,587 (-)	45.316 (-)	2.65p (-)	- 1
Panchins (1)	22.31m (22.95m)	1.29m (1.52m)	4.3p (5.8p)	0.75p (0.75p)
Pestison Grass (F)	889.6m (754.9m)	35.6m (32.2m)	5 91p (5.29p)	3.5p (3.3p)
Peek (F)	162 Jm (143 8m)	12.55m (15.98m)	6.9p (9.9p)	3.40 (3.40)
Pitterwief (F)	13.01m (12.09m)	171m (-20.26m)	2.96p (35.41p)	-
PTS Group (F)	73.86m (60.95m)	2.2m (2.26m)	7.4p (7.8p)	3.9p (3.6p)
Redrose Gross (I)	123.2m (95.3m)		5.2p (3.9p) -	1.2p (1.1p)
Rebert Walters (F)	45 83m (23.98m)		11.29 (5.40)	1.50 (30)
Sherifeld United (I)	4 84m (3.95m)	-190,000 (41,000)		the second
Thorntains (II)	65.46m (55.83m)		9.55p (7.32p)	1.65p (1.5p)
Sorday & Cardale (F)		1.16m (-247.000)		-
Waverley Missing (1)	2.82m (~)	-5.9th (-178,788)	-13.07p (-0.44p)	
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er (F) 57.78m (61.25m) 5.78m (4.99m) 17.0p (14.64p) 8.1p (7.4p)

(F) 270 Sm (251 Sm) 30 2m (21.5m) 39.7p (28.7p) 18p (14p)

28.19m (25.32m) 2.31m (1.80m) 5.4p (4.7p) 2.4p (2.2p)

5.360n (4.90n) 975m (519m) 67p (35.6p) 35p (31p)

Company Results

Swimwear sales **boost Pentland**

Tom Stevenson

Three-quarters of last year's Olympic swimming medals were won in Speedo costumes, while three out of the four goalkeepers playing in the semi-finals of Euro 96 wore Reusch gloves, according to Pentland, which owns both brands. They contributed to a big jump in profits at the sports and leisure group, which also boasts Ellesse, Mitre and Berghaus among its

stable of brands. Pentland's reported profits were devastated by a one-off £40.4m charge relating to the disposal of its US consumer goods subsidiary Woods Industries, but before exceptional items profits in the year to December rose 28 per cent to £36m (£28.1m). The dividend

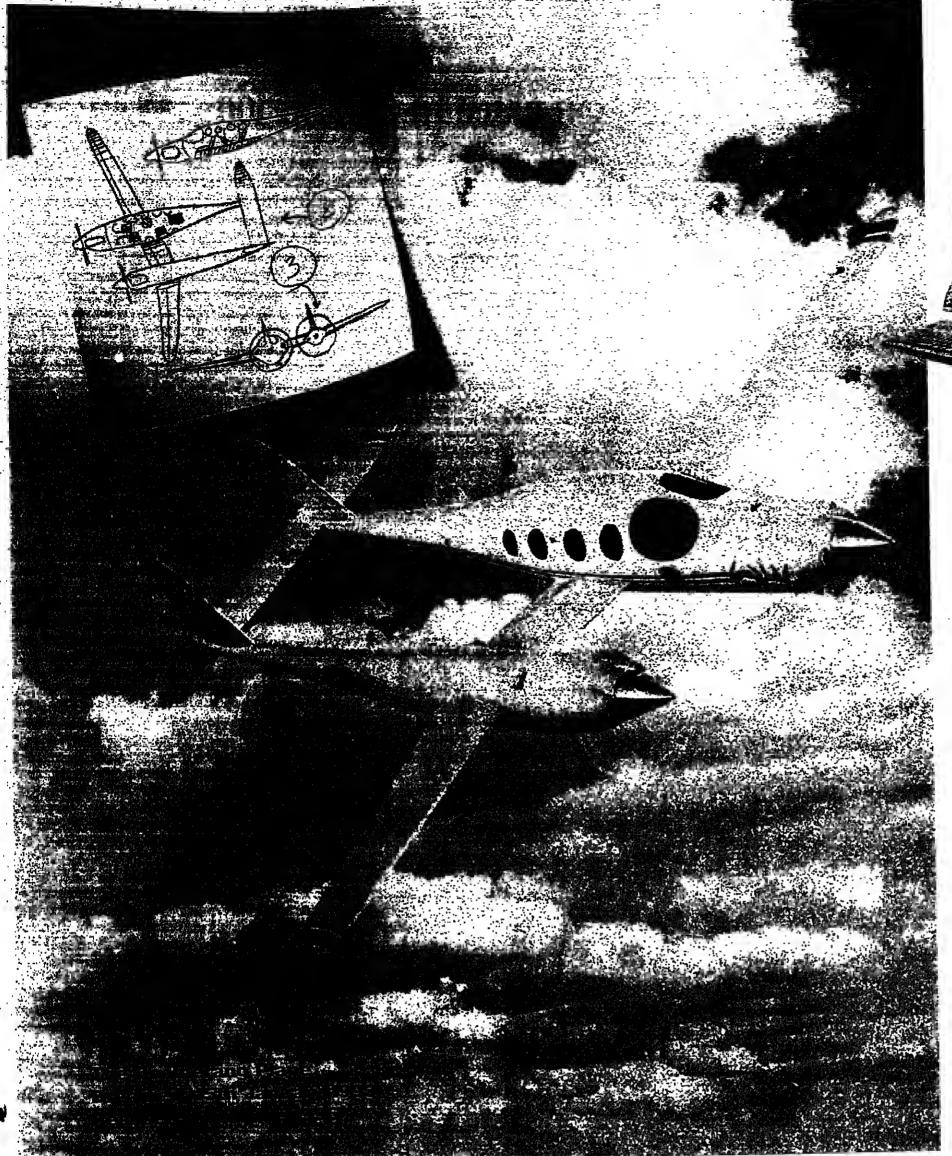
rose 6 per cent to 3.5p. The company also announced it had recruited

Baird to become finance director, succeeding Frank Farrant who indicated his intention to leave last year. Meanwhile, Tim Score, group financial con-troller at Lucas Varity, will become finance director at William Baird.

Stephen Rubin, chairman, said the strong profits performance vindicated the company's decision, following a strategic review, to focus on its core sports. leisure and fashion markets. He said: "This is the activity on which we shall build Pentland's foture prosperity." Pentland's shares closed 3p higher at 108p. Sales at Speedo were boosted by the lannch in March 1996 of

Aquablade, a material Pentland described as "the fastest fabric through the water ever devel-. The company said three of the four new world records at last summer's Olympics were achieved by swimmers wearing Nicholas Webster from William Aquablade.

حكة امن الأصل



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Burt Rutan had a dream – to build a twin-engine plane that would fly more economically, symmetrically and significantly safer than conventional

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answers and meet the many challenges of trying anything

new. Ultimately, Apple Macintosh computers help you get where you're going, even if the final destination is a place you never imagined at the start. On June 17th 1996, Burt Rutan realised his dream. When will you realise yours?

The second secon

h and

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ear sale

Everyone las adream.

(Our guess is yours has nothing to do with learning how to use a computer.)

Give your dreams a chance.



Data Bank

Share spotlight

market report/shares

Legendary Hanson clings to a place in the top 100 FTSE 100 4444.3 + 6.9**FTSE 250** Banson, a came that domioated the stock market for 4729.4 + 0.2more than a quarter of a ceo-FTSE 350 tury, is on the verge of losing its cherished blue chip Footsie 2194.3 + 2.7status. As the market closed **SEAQ VOLUME** shares of the ooce-feared predator were clinging to a 2p gain at 301.5p, probably just high enough to avoid the indignity of relegation. 1.1bn shares, 61,396 bargains Gilts Index

Compass, the cootract cater-

launched a four-way demerger. Two of the constitueous, Energy and Imperial Tobacco, have al and imperial 100scco, nave ar-ready barged into Footsie. The rump of the business, the Han-son huilding materials group, will, therefore, always be a hise chip struggler although a round of old-style acquisitions would help its iodex survival.

In the group's heyday take-overs were meat and drink to

Compass, the cootract catering group split from Grand Metropolitan, is the main Harson challeoger. If it had held its recent 742.5p peak it would have leap-frogged the old star. But indications Accor, the Eremeth leaves indications of the Zeneca drugs.

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

under their collective belts. Footsie rose 6.9 points (after hig casualty. Failure to secure 28.9) to 4.444.3 with the supporting FTSE 250 index edging ahead to 4,729.4. Turnover was a heady 1.1 hillion-plus.

Glaxo Wellcome's rampant progress contioued with a 36.5p advance to 1,154p. Besides the wave of US support plans to host a City investment presentation learnthis month.

Scotia was the drug sector's

and Standard Chartered, the banking group, fell 19.5p to 873.5p after meetings in Scot-land. Williams, buying Chubb Security, edged ahead 2.5p to 335.5p in response to institu-tional meetings. Thistle Hotels gained 3p to

188.5p amid talk of an acquisition that could have a significant impact on the group's performance.

Imperial Chemical Indus-tries enjoyed a 13.5p gain to 752p oo the back of an upbeat statement from paint maker Kalon, 7p higher of 135p. BOC, the chemicals group,

dashing 67.5p to a 1.425p. Glenchewton's flirtation Barr & Wallace Arnold, the car with puls may be ending. To dealer, advanced 10.5p to 249p. after confirming speculation it might sell its lessure side, largely hotels and coaches. Rank recently unleaded its

coach division in a management buyout and if a merger of the two coach/holiday groups is planned it would form the most powerful force

of its kind in the country.

Redrow, the builder, lost
5.5p to 169.5p after chairman
Steveo Morgan said he intended to sell 54 million shares. cutting his stake to 35 per

Glenchewton's flintation
with pubs may be ending. The
pots and pans group, which
produced profits up from
2677,000 to £1.64m, is said to
be willing to sell its Country
Style Imas, looking for around £10m. It is thought to have made presentations to interested buyers. Glenchew ton, which said CFT's expansion depended on finding suitable sites, made no refer-

Taking Stock

ence to any pub sale in yes-terday's results statement. Text 100, a public rela-tions group specialising in hi-tech clients, made a high-powered Ofex debut, reaching 42p against a 30p placing. Only 800,000 shares, 4 per cent, were placed. The company, which made profits of just over £1m last year, was started 16 years ago – its first client was Rodine, now little more than a gamble on the

Water Shares Sectricity Shares High Street Backs

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French leisure giant intended to raise £260m by selling half its 21.5 per ceot stake, undermined scotiment at a crucial change of course, a pale shadow of its former self. Its creator, the legendary Lord Hanson, admitted the conglomerate concept had legendary to concept	sides the wave of US of the drugs giant had th	he satis- Swedish migraine Zeneca's e shares Glaxo's Glaxo's Crosthwaite last night hosted the flex- ig swoop d be the Vodafone, making preseo-	slipped 16.5p to 1,016p as Nat West Securities described the shares as a "trading sell" and EMI, the showbiz group, put oo 27.5p to 1,225p oo penmure Gordoo support. The oil majors gave ground that takeover hopes continued to spur some of the medium-sized players with British Bordon National Security 100 pen	rent. Fibernet, a data networking pecialist, rolled out a 39.5p parties fining a partnership with a leading artnership with a leading apartnership with a leading apartnership with a leading artnership transfer of just of
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sport

No higher power on rugby league paddock Cream of

Geoff Hilton, priest, bowler and referee, is in charge of tonight's Varsity match. Dave Hadfield reports

he league equivalent of rugby union's University match might need divine intervention before it anracts the same degree of hype. This vear it comes its closest yet to

getting that helping hand. Wielding the whistle at Richmond tonight will be Geoff Hilton. Catholic priest, crown green bowler and rugby league referee - a veritable renaissance

Fr Hilton played the game at stand-off and loose forward as a schoolboy in Swinton and later pounded the beat as a policeman in Salford. In 1982. he started the long process of re-training for the priesthood, playing union for an exiles' team in Rome by way of light

When I fractured my ankle in several places. I was asked by the hishop to retire, because I was having to have so much treatment, he said.

When he was ordained and returned to Salford, taking up a post as a hospital chaplain, he returned to his first love. refereeing in the North West Counties and later the Student

Rugby League, On top of his bowling activities - he competes on the notoriously hard-drinking. If it's directed a heavy-betting professional different matter.

circuit known as the Panel and is good enough to have reached the final of the sport's secondhiggest knock-out, the Talbot, last year - it makes for a hectic lifestyle, especially now that he has his own parish in Blackburn.

"If you have several interests, you have to find time," he said. 'Obviously, if there's a clash between parish matters and sport, the parish matters have to come first. But I love being involved in sport."

Fr Hilton has become one of the student game's leading refcrees, taking charge of all their

"The student game has been making great strides. Standards have improved tremendously in the time that I have been involved. The Student World Cup last year was a very high standard and undoubtedly opened a lot of people's eves."

A clerical involvement in rugby league is not unknown -Fr John Cootes played on the wing for Australia in 1969 and 1970 - but there can be special problems for a priest.

"I referee according to the laws of the game, not any higher authority," Fr Hilton said. "For instance, if players swear at each other I tend to ignore it. If it's directed at me, it's a

"Not that there's much of a problem in the student game. It's a very well-disciplined form

of rugby."

He will hope that holds good tonight, when Oxford meet Cambridge in the Varsity match for the 16th time.

Oxford, who have lost three and drawn one of the last four encounters, have grounds for expecting to break their

Under their new coach, the South African international, Nico Serfontein, the Dark Blues have hit their best form for years and have two players, the winger, Jonathan Parker, and their second-row, John Hobart, in the Great Britain squad.

But Cambridge, behind Ox-ford on points' difference at the top of their southern division of the SRL, still have their captain and scrum-half. Dave Green. who was outstanding in last year's clash, and Jonathan Griffiths, who played for Paris St Germain last season.

The game is being played in London on an evening during term for the first time, which should encourage a healthy attendance. Usurping that other affair at Twickenham might be a pious hope, but it must be theologically sound to observe that God loves a trier.



youth to milk deal

A game long associated with beer'n fags will have 15 million advertising sites on a product with healthier connotations this season, writes Dave Hadfield. Dairy Crest, one of the country's leading milk suppliers, will put a new Super League brand of the white stuff on to the shelves of more than 450 supermarkets this month. Better still, it's

The first licensing deal to carry the Super League logo was launched in Bradford vesterday and, apart from £250,000 worth of promotion on litre cartons, the game stands to gain £150,000 for youth development if the brand takes off as Dairy Crest believes h will.

The Rugby League's director of marketing, Mark Newton, said: This shows how far the game has come in 12 months. We are increasingly attracting companies of this sort of profile." Halifax are to open talks with their missing winger, Mark Preston, about a possible return to the game. The former Wigar player has not turned out for Halifax for almost a year, following his decision not to be-

come a full-time professional. Halifax are also talking to another former Wigan player, Kelvin Skerrett, and hoping to Sign him in time to play against Photograph: Andrew Varley his old club on Sunday.

Blaze raze play-offs

ice hockey

Solibull Blaze have pulled out of the Premier League play-offs at the 11th hour, scaving the sixteam round-robin competition in chaos. The club is believed to have suffered a player revolt, with the entire team refusing to

play in protest at not being paid. Premier League officials have been forced to scrap the original fixture list and now the remaining five teams - Swindon, Slough, Kingston, Guildford and Telford - will play each other on a bome and away basis, leading to semi-

Keith Milhench, the Kingston Hawks coach, said: "lt's been absolute maybem. I can't stress too strongly how disgusted I am at Solihuli.

Manchester Storm's Hilton Ruggles will sit out his side's next two Superleague play-off matches following a disciplinary hear ing. Ruggles was involved in a brawl with Newcastle Cobras' Terho Koskela during Storm's 3-0 defeat last Wednesday. Although both players were handed penalties during the game, a video bas shown Ruggles using a helmet during the affray, which means an automatic ban for excessive rough play.

victories.

The pattern of the game was

Cambridge end losing streak

Holding a bible and a whistle. Fr Geoff Hilton combines religion and refereeing

for a tackle on Renwick Irvine .

and Cambridge had some des-

perate defending on their hands. They survived and, with Bate-

man back on the pitch, began

to move forward again. Oxford's downfall came with their mabi-

lity to convert penalty corners.

Blue, made sure of victory in the

Hockey BILL COLWILL

reports from Milton Keynes Oxford University Cambridge University

John Mayer, a second-year medical student, will not forget his 31st-minute goal at the National Hockey Stadium here yesterday. It sent Cambridge on their way to win the 97th University Hockey Bowl, breaking Oxford's run of six successive

set in the early minutes, with Oxford packing their midfield and defence and only occasionally threatening the Cambridge defence, in which Ian Sands was outstanding.

Although Oxford played a tactical game, it was Cambridge who looked more likely to score, forcing their first penalty corner in the 31st minute and from it winning a penalty stroke when Ian Bateman was sent crashing by a Oxford defender. Mayer made no mistake from the spot - it was a moment for the Light Blues to savour.

Their joy might bave been

They brought Roger Wilcock on for each of their eight corners, but it was not his day. Cambridge's captain, Mike Meredith, a former Oxford

Sands were named players of

OCFORD UNIVERSITY: 1. Crofts (St Cather-ine 3): T Griffiths (Velole): I MacCormick (C-eted, M Barr (New, copt), 8 Remeann (St Catherine (s), II Edwards (St Edmund Hell): T Johnson (Jesus): R Irvine (Uncoln), 2 Cope (Braseriose): T Menthewe (St Edmund Hell).

Close stands aside

Cricket

Brian Close has resigned from Yorkshire's Cricket Committee and will serve instead on their Public Relations sub-committee: The 66-year-old former coun-

"I will be able to express my-

self more freely and in any case I am also interested in belping to publicise all that Yorkshire cricket has to offer," he said. Close, who was replaced as and the captain, David Byas.

cricket chairman last year, has disagreed with the club's policy of recruiting a number of over-Australia's Michael Slater.

"I strongly believe that we

should be giving opportunities to our own batsmen and would like to see younger players ty and England captain feels that coming through," he added, his new role will give him the "There are some other things chance to promote Yorkshire with which I am unhappy but as a member of the Cricket Com-

mittee I have felt unable to raise them in general committee." Yorkshire's cricket affairs have recently been run largely by the cricket chairman, Bob Platt,



INDEPENDENT

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

Top Fifty League Table

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 MARCH

	NALLE	L-AII	- VIII
I .	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	788
2	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OASIS	760
3	MR 51MON LIU	DEFENCE ROYERS	755
4	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	753
5	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	748
5	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F.C.	748
-	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	746
<u>a</u>	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	745
9	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	743
_	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	743
	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE RC	739
;;	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANURE F.C.	739
13	MR IAN GROUT	SILK CITY	738
	MR JOHN COX		
13	MR J GODWIN	SOUTHFILL F.C.	738 736
16	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	EDNA	731
17	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 2000	730
<u>ia</u>	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	729
19	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY		728
19	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM 7	728
19	MR A MORGAN	KICK START	728
22	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	727
22_	MR ANDREW GODDEN	F.C. ALZEY	727
24	MR GARY HARROWS	101 STARS	726
24	MR 0) JOHNSON	THE AWAY WINNERS	726
24	MR WOODHOUSE	LEE BURNS CHEST	726
24	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	726
28	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	723
28	MR JONATHAN DAVIS	GOLDEN TEAM	723
30	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	
30	DR STEVE GILL	MORE POINTS THAN SOTON	722
32	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL BATES	721
32	DR HORNE	THE FLYING FOXES	721
32	MR R PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	721
32	MR G WHITE	WHITE CITY	721
36	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	720
36	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	720
36	MR ANDY LANE	IF ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	720
39	MR BARRY MORGAN	BAZZA'S BOYS	719
40	MR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG'S BRICK	718
40	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	718
40	MR R RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	712
40	MR ANDREW BOLTON	ANDREW'S B TEAM	718
44	MR P HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	717
44	MR P CURRAN		717
44	MR E J HETHERINGTON	BETRIC	717
47	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	SANDINO	716
47	MR M GREGGSON	LITTLE-UNS	716
47	MR PAUL FULLWOOD	KING OF HOBBIES F.C.	716
47	MR DAVID MAHER	THE ELITE OF THE ELITE	716

MR KRISTOV BAERWALD

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY PHILIPS

oday we publish the latest results in our supported by Philips Energy Saver

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 30 (Wk 30) column lists all poiots scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 3 March - Sunday 9 March inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 9 March.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 2 March.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent Fantasy Football game; Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal # 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = I point when a player is selected and plays = I point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw . Lose 1 point for a yellow card . Lose 3

- PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion

will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

MONTH 6 PRIZE WINNER

lations to Mr Robin Stevenson from Carteston in Oxfordship who is this months prize winner with his seam P.C. Riverside. He has won a pair of ackets to see England's World Cup qualifier with Georgia at Wembley on 30 April 1997. The sigh months prize is for matches played between 20 January and 23 February.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES A-After transfer perfor

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 MARCH; WEEK 30 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 3 MARCH - 9 MARCH CODE PLAYER TEAM FORMIS VALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM FORMIS VALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM FORMIS VALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM

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sport

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England hoping to benefit from confidence of 'Leicester lip'. Chris Hewett reports

Healey quick to express himself express himself

ustin Healey, the fourth and last of England's and thereby secure a Triple ing Scotland in Paris this weeke paraded by the national selectors as a potential long-term successor to Dewi Morris, reacted to the news of his call-up yesterday with his customary. degree of self-deprecating modesty. "Where do you get your confidence from?" be was asked.

"From my ability," he replied.
Leaving aside the young Cassius Clay, it was difficult to recall a newcomer to the international sporting arena with such bottomless reserves of pure nerve. The longer the 23year-old livewire from Merseyside reflected on the challenge of facing Wales in Cardiff this weekend, the closer he seemed to get to some Ali-style verse. And it would have been no surprise had he ended his press conference by announcing: "I'm feeling so mean, we'll win by

Healey's cocksure performances for Leicester this season have left any number of son have left any number of Courage League back rows thirsting for blood. There is hardly a flanker in the land who would not sell his grandmorth.

and company make sense of Will Carling performing well their brave new world.

Healey replaces Andy to get behind such a distinguished servant until he hreasts would not sell his grandmother for the chance to collar the half in the country, but as the Welsh loose forwards may discover on Saturday was the season a very distant fourth of four - Rowell's recent experiments with Kyran Bracker of to catch him first.

In naming Healey as the only change to the side that let a golden Grand Slam opportunity slip against the French 12 days ago, Jack Rowell, the Eng-land coach, described his freshman as "a very exciting package with a touch of pace that you don't often find in scrumhalves". That pace was there for all to see when the former Waterloo and Orrell wing was given his first taste of international. Africa this summer, should action as a replacement during England's game in Dublin last pelling aspects of what promis-

I started in the position when attempt to tame the dragon I was six and I've played millions before the Arms Park is laid to of schoolboy games with a rubble in preparation for a No 9 on my back," he pointed total rebuild. out yesterday. "It's not a case Understandably, given an of my stopping thinking like a entire casebook of English wing, but quite the opposite nightmares in Cardiff, Rowell When I started playing on the is giving his only bankable goalwing. I had to stop myself think kicker, Paul Grayson, as much ing like a scrum-half." And time as possible to recover how does he think now? "Tike from a groin condition that

coach tried to restore the confidence of players embarking on the rocky road of total rugby. Provided Healey's basic sarum-half skills—the passing the boxnatural talent that illuminates every other part of his game should help Phil de Glanville and company make sense of

but more obviously limited rival from Wasps. He started the discover on Saturday, you have Saracens and Northampton's Matt Dawson had by no means been written off as failures - and it was not until he produced a string of vintage displays during Leicester's stampede through Europe in the Heineken Cup that his case began to appear irrefutable.

His contest with Robert Howley, the Weishman whose own turn of speed makes him the No 1 contender for the Lions scrum-half berth in South prove one of the most commonth, and Rowell now hopes es to be a mighty occasion, that an early promotion will France may be odds-on light his side's blue touch paper favourities to the up the Five Na-

Not that Healey ever truly of a Gallic Grand Slam can considered himself to be any overshadow the fact that thing other than a scrum-half. England will be making a final

how does be think now? "Like from a groin condition that a mgby player," he said. showed encouraging signs of All of which will have been improvement yesterday. If the music to Rowell's ears as the Northampton stand-off fails to make it, Mike Catt of Bath will move off the bench and into the cauldron.

According to the coach, the side picked itself once the kicking - hold up in Test scrum-half issue had been conditions, the phenomenal decided. We thought of playdecided. We thought of play-ing Jeremy Guscott in the cen-tre because we always do, but when you have someone like

If that sounded like a valedictory pat on the back for Carling, the man himself was playing a typically inscrutable hand on the subject of his international future. "There will be no definite decision on retirement until this summer, England's . most successful former captain said.

"At the moment, I'm inclined to think that this will be my last Five Nations game, but I doo't want to close the door just

ENGLAND (v Water, Cardiff, Saturday): T Stimppots (McMansSie); J Stotghttoolme (Satr), W Carding Obringano, P De Garrylle (Batr), rept), T Lesterwood Plancasole; P Carayana (Northampton), A Healey (Linces-ter), G Northampton, A Healey (Linces-ter), G Northampton, H Ragan (Bistof), J Lantaged Pitzies, and M Johnson Lolcasory, S Shaw (Sistof), L Delingto (Waspel, T Rodhar (Northampton), R Host



Austin Healey (left) horses around with Mike Catt in training yesterday

Penaud out of Paris finale

Alain Penaud, the Freoch stand-off, will miss Saturday's Five Nations match against Scotland at Parc des Princes because of a pulled thigh muscle. He will be replaced by Nar-

Wright makes the bench in his

Arthur Hastie, the team manager, said: "Hilton damaged his neck a week ago in training at Bath. He played oo Saturday but his condition got worse."

Lianelli have called off Fribonne's Pierre Bondony.

Aneckinjury sustained by the
Bath prop David Hiltoo has
forced Scotland to change their
substitutes for the match. Peter
substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the match. Peter substitutes for the

Their flanker Andrew Gibbs joins Spencer John, Mike Voyle,

Nigel Davies, Wayne Proctor and Ieuan Evans in the squad and the coach, Gareth Jenkios, will now oot risk playing an under-strength side.

David Campese could be the scourge of British teams for one final time as he contemplates ending his career with a Com-

monwealth Games gold medal. The world record Test try-scorer, who announced his retirement from international

Britain last year, is considering playing next year in Kuala Lumpur. The 1998 games in Malaysia will feature Sevens rugby for the first time and Campese has not ruled out being part of the Australian team.
"I'd be very interested in

rugby on the Wallahies' tour of

competing in the Commonwealth Games," he said yesterday. "But I'd have to be picked first."

Marshall returns to the Open

Squash

England's Peter Marshall making a comeback after a two-year tay-off, has been drawn to face Australia's Brett Martin in the first round of the Leekes British Open Championships starting on 31 March in Cardiff.

Martin was the last player

beaten by Marshall in the British Open, going out in the 1995 semi-finals before Marshall lost to Jansher Khan in the final and was later diagnosed as suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome. After a complete rest, Marshall resumed training three months ago and has already beaten several top British players, including Simon Parke and Paul Johnson. He has been granted a wild-card entry to the British Open as he has no

current world ranking. Pakistan's eight times world champion and British Open title holder, Jansher Khan, will seek his sixth Open title as top seed. For the second successive year, he is drawn to meet Derek Ryan, the Irish champion, in the first round, and another first round repeat sees Peter Nicol facing Paul Johnson.

Domestic hopes will be pinned on the new world No 4. Simon Parke, who missed the 1996 event recovering from surgery and chemotherapy treatment for testicular cancer. His projected semi-final opponent is Jansher.

Australia's world champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, is the top seed and favourite to win the women's title for the first time. Another Australian, Michelle Martin, winner for the past

three years, is second seed. The first round takes place at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff, after which the rest of the tournament take place at the Welsh National Ice Rink.

Vector National Lee Tettla.

LEBIES BRITISH OPEN CHAMPONSHIP (Carrell, 33 Natrol): Seedings: Merc 1 Jansher (Nan 19ah, 2 R Eykes (Aust, 3 R Nacol IScol, 4 S Parke Teng, 5 C Walker (Eng, 6 J Power (Can), 7 A Bar ada (Egypt), 8 8 Martin (Aust, Normee: 1 S Prz-Gerad (Aust, 2 M Martin (Aust, 3 C Jacdman (Eng, 4 S Winght (Eng, 5 L) (Long (Aust, 6 6 Horner (Eng, 7 C Owers (Aust, 8 S Shone (Gen.))

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

4 Leicester v Midd 6 Newcastle y Coventy... 7 Notingham Forest v Liverpoot ... Southempton v Arsenal

Playing Sunday: Chaises v Sunderland. Nationwide Football League

First Division 10 Crystal Palace v Norwich . 11 Grimsby v Manchester City.... 12 Huddersfield v Portsmouth.... 13 tosarch v Botton ... 14 Oldham v Wolves 15 Port Vale y Charlton 16 Reading v Bradford City .. 17 Sheffield Ltd v Oxford Utd .

21. Brantford v Burnley 22 Bury v Gillingham -24 Crowe v Luton: 25 Milanii ir Roumanniumii 1

liso playing (not on componit) Biscipped Presson. Playing Sunday: Bristol Rosers v Bristol City.

16 Southerd v QPR 20 Tranmere v Barro Maying Sunday: West Bronz v Blandrufte

26 Peterborough y Stockpo 27 Rotherham v Notts County

Playing Friday: Cardiff v Doncester, Colch-bater v Manafield. Playing Sanday: Layton Otient v Fullant.

43 Raith v Dunferintine

44 Airdne v Falkirk 45 Chrishank v Partick 46 Dundee v St Johns

Second Division 49 Berwick v Livingston

Also playing (not on compone): Bracher of Clyde; Queen of the South v Hamilton; Stan-housenute v Dumberton; Stranser v Aye. Died Divisione Albino Rovets v Queen's Peric. Condenteeth v Advonth; East String v Al-

Tes horses Manchester Litt. Newcastle Crystal Palece, Sheffield Utd, Brandord, MR-well, Carlele, Hertlepool, Hearts, St Mirren

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless states 7.30 unless stated
COCA-COLA CUP
SEMI-FINAL SECOND LES
Middleshro (2) v Stockport (0) (7.45)
FA CARLING PREMERESHEP
Leeds v Southerngton (7.45)
Sheffield West v Sendertand (7.45)
MATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
EINST ORISSION

FIRST DIVISION
Queen's Park Rangers v Reading (7.45)
6611'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

MER DIVISION dors y Dundee Utd (7.45).

Strangmer v Hamilton

COS LEAGUE Promier Distribut Harrow Borcugh v Hayandge Sards.

DR MARTIERS LEAGUE Promier Divisions Bordock v Gravenera & Northelest Newport AFC

V Ashford (7.45). Middled Divisions Solitus

Borough v Struutcings. Southers Drivinions

Dertord v Buckunginen Town (7.45).

Learnards Stemenot v Hauant (7.45).

UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-NOSE TIMBE BRIDGES V HORSHAM YMCA. HISTOMLEAD HORIT LEAGUE: Sheppey V UHLEPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pre-saler Obtation: Mirriess Blackstone v Buston Town.

NORTHERN COLUMNES EAST LEAGUE Pra-main Davidor: Devarby v Seby. SCREMENT DAVIDOR: TERRIE Practice Davidor: Smirgton v Mangorsfeld: Tourson v Bodont. FEDERATION BRANCHY NORTHERN LEAGUE Heat TANGERS. First Division? Blingson Syntams v Viest Auctional States. Consent Durant City v See-ham fled State.

JENNSON MERSEX LEAGUE: East Comes Vics v Petigratio. MORTH WEST EQUATION LEAGUE First Di-vision; Dansin v Rousendale Lint; Cameroe v

A COLOR

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PRESS & DESIREAL HISPILAND LEAGUE: PRUSE THISE V Name County, Contractation v Huntly Fenner, Michanics & Fort William. v Hunty Fanes, algolymics it Fort Wilhald, LBAGUE OF What Six Conness Bay v Conney. Chiffeen Virtual Cable Ale Cond (7.45). Glover Landers Copy agestine-dead second fact. For Pertin 10) v Westpoon (0).

Promitted tobusting Prescriet Develop Develop V Biochland 7.0); Learngol v Botton (7.0). Front Philaders (7.0) and Philaders (7.0) and Philaders (7.0) and Wilhald (7.0) and Wilhald (7.0) at the telephone Found, Second Oxidation (7.0); at the telephone Found, Second Oxidation (7.0); at the telephone (7.0). Braidford City v Hull (7.0); Sprinky v Cartale verilying the record.

34 Engler v Scurithorpe. 35 Hardepool v Roctidal 35 Hull Chy v Brighton...

Bell's Scottish League .. 40 Aberdeen y Dundee United ...

Playing Sunday: Caltic v Rangers: First Division

47 St Mirren v Monon 48 String v East Fife

Four drawn: Eventon v Derby, Tranmere v Barnsley, Crewe v Luton, Aberdeen v Dundoe United,

Eine awaya: Liverpool, Marchester City, Sworees, Dunlemeine, Partick.

(7.15): Streegbury v Western (7.0). Third Di-visios: Bury v Darkegbar (7.0) Lincolt v Scur-thorpe (7.0); Stockhole v Doncester (7.0); Scarboraugh v Weisell (7.0). AVON HESUFACIOC COMMINATION First Di-vision: Bristo; City v Crotese; Bristol Rome v Cardif far Yaley; Crastron's Southersphon (2.0); Calond List Visient; Portsprout v Milwell (7.0). PA, YOUTH CUP Hith round: Crystal Pulner v Tottenham (7.0); fat Plotigh Lanel.

Rugby League RUGRY LEABUE First Division Feights Coughes vibit Whitehaum v Feetherston Process

Rugby Union HART GALHORE FOUR COUNTIES CHANG-CONSTRUCTION With Management of Grander Burningham (8.0) for Luctonians PLPC). ice bockey

SUPERIEMBLE PLAY-OFFS. Group & Apr Scottish Engles v Manufacture Storm (7.0). Group B: Stoffield Stockers v Nottington Parthers Other sports BADNINTER: Yoner Al-England Open Champ-costus, Distional Indoor Avens, Birmington).

BOWLS: Men's Home Internetionships (Ballymoney, Co Antomi,

TODAY'S NUMBER

162

The number of trilles per hour recorded for a studiecock hit by Simon Archer of Britain's Olympic baddminton squad beating the 142 mph by the tennis plajer, Mark Philippoussis Vesterday the Golfmess Book of Records began the process of

1.50 Code Red 2.25 Strathminster 3.00 Respers 35 from N G 4.40 Mr Conductor 5:15 Lord Lamb

GOING: Good (Good to Pirm in places),

Bight-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds.

Grave is function of A1 and A804. ADMISSION: Members \$12;
Paddock \$5; Course \$4. GAR PARK: Picute area \$1; rest free.

BLINREED FUST TIME: Last Pomy (5.16). WINNERS IN THE LAST STYEN DATE: None. LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Timer Clew (4.05) has been seri. 245 miles by A Hobbs from Kingsbridge, Devon.

1.50 KEYSOE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 10-0070 BRICKYRDE (15) Mr IM Flactory 5 11.10 J Mogford (7)
9LF9PP MAND WERFORD (12) B Prescr 10 11 10 J Mogford (7)
07203-2 EDMARD SEYMOUR (ESS) (7) W Arris 10 11 4 J Bricks
545-430 WSCOURT PLLY (12) DR 12 Modford 12 11 4 O B Bricky
FR56-04 SHANNEE (14) B Lieuthy 10 11 3 Mr J L Manchy
OU COURT RED (15) W Mark 4 ID 10 1 Mr J L Manchy
00 COURT RED (15) W Mark 4 ID 10 5 Mr J Replands
40-065 SONE FOR 1636 (15) D Paymer 8 ID 6 Mr J Britands
40-065 SONE FOR 1636 (15) D F Moder 4 ID 5 SW Mr J 4/4PP-PO DOOM REDGE (NO) Miss L Statul 6 10 5... 4/4P-006 MICK THE YORK (LA) PI Cliver 7 10 3.....

2.10 Court Master 2.40 Sally's Master 3.10

Bit Of A Touch 3.45 Hold Your Ranks 4.20

M Left-hand, sharp, course with short nun-in.

Course is N of town on ASSO, Suzion 1m. ADMISSION: Tattersalis £10; Course \$5. CAR PARK: On rails \$1.50, rest free.

BLINKERED 18T TEMP. None. WIRNERS IN LAST 7 DATE: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: The Secret Grey (2.10) & Lock-lan Commander (2.40) sens 212m by O McCein from Cheshire.

2.10 EAST OGWELL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS FI

SETTING: 10-11 Court Master, 7-2 kmilight, 5-1 Market Maytess, 6-1 The Secret Grey, 12-1 Bulls Wood, 14-1 Playing From 20-1 White in The Woods

£3,475 added 2m 110yds

Kaloore 4.55 Urban Lily 5.30 Top Javailn

(CLASS 6) £2,375 added 2m 5f 11Dyds

11 283700 SUGHTLY SPECIAL \$9 9 Perce 5 10 2...

11 203AU SURFINI OF DESCRIPTION -13 declared -13 declared BETTIME 7-2 Edward Seymon, 9-2 Code Red, 5-1 Bark/Flate, 8-1 Viscount Tally, 7-1 Signity Special, 8-1 Shanaker, 12-1 others 2.25 MELCHBOURNE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS - 17 decisred
BETTENC: 5-1 Strattaminator, 3-1 Dark Phonaic, 7-2 Dacaio, 8-1 Losp in
The Dark, 9-1 Castle Menns, 15-1 Rintent Dutherst, 25-1 others

2.40 TEABOY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 6f

BETTERS: 5-2 beforther water, 7-2 sectors, 8-1 Populos, 12-1 Communitation, 20-1 others.

18-1 Table: 5-2 beforther water, 7-2 sectors, 8-1 Populos, 12-1 Communitation, 20-1 others.

3.10 HORSES FOR COURSES HOAP CHASE

(CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 5f 110yds 11211-4 ALLO GEORGE (BG) KID) & NewCombe 11 11 0 __A Thombox 52/1A1P ORSWELL LAD (52) (ED) P Horbs 8 11 13 __Mr S Durach (7)

3.00 BLETSOE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F)

Minimum weight: 10st, True weight: Might Party Fox 12b, Ballart Ruber 95: 6to. BETTIME: 7-2 Tim Solding, 4-1 Recopies Rock, 5-1 Reball Remain, 6-1 Cetti-no, King's Salling, 7-1 Cablic Lated, 8-1 Hight Funcy, 26-1 others

240305 HIGHLY CHARMING [27] M Baraciough 5 10 11. Jana Steinal
PP2040 SHIFTING MOON (12) F Jordan 5 10 8 January Oliver 8
1631555 HIGHLAND HJANE (MSR A Badwine 8 10 0 JANE F Needbard (7)
400 VEROMICA FRANCO (63) 2 Pearce 4 10 0 January 10 Jan

- 9 declared - BETTME: 5-2 iron N Goks, 2-1 Daily Sport Get, 9-2 highly Cherming, 5-1 Aka International, 8-1 Fairy Park, Stifting Moon, 14-1 others 4.05 THURLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2.925 added 3m 2f

4.40 BOLNHURST NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) E4,075 added 2m 4f 110yds

3.45 LITTLE CLOSE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 8f - 5 deckared -BETTING: \$-2 Caselo's Boy, 11-4 Ritte, 3-1 La Menorquina, 5-1 Vallenthe,

211155 BET OF A TOUCH (\$2) (\$7) R Fros 11 13 4 ______ J Frost 4-03435 JAMES (\$5) (\$7) R Fros 11 10 4 ______ J Frost 4-03435 JAMES (\$6) (\$7) R Frost 10 10 0 ______ D Salter (\$7) -4 declared -ETTENS: 6-4 Cedar Square, 13-5 Kintore, 7-1 Good King Henry, 9-1 Herbores, 12-1 Tour's Apache, 16-1 Mercado. Baltim Chance, Mye'n Story, Abasett Minds, 20-1 others -4 deciared - Harlerum weight: 10x; True hardene meight: Jaikreaker Star 10b.

RETINIC 13-8 Allo Scorga, 9-4 Bit Of A Touch; 5-2 Oramed Lad, 6-2 Juil-hander

4.55 JOKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) ### 179.153 FRENOCY MOUSE (5) (CO) M Pice 8 12 0 ______ D Wolds
2 2001-87 TRET FEDH FLYRE (23) (CO) J Jones 12 10 12 _____ D Wolds
3 101-05 URBAN LILY (39) (CD) R Hodges 7 10 9 _____ D Hamtis (7) 8
4 005 ALPRIC STRENOL (14) M Benerator 6 10 4 _____ D J Revenigh (5)
5 000-4 RURRC STRENOL (14) M Benerator 6 10 4 _____ R Groene B
7 P03(36-5 POON STICK (14) R FORT 7 10 0 ______ Mr 4 Noldboords
5 10-5000 ALDWICK COLONANCE (21) M USPER 10 10 0 ____ Mr 1 Baker (7)
9 P00060 ROYAL GLINT (12) H Haynes 8 10 0 ____ Mr L Baker (7)
4 Minimum weight: 10st. True weights: Poon Stock Set 13th, Aldwick Colonande Set 12th, Royal Clint (34 12th).

Set L30. Royal Gint Set L3th.
BETTMC: 3-1 Urban Lily, 7-2 Priendly House, 4-1 Ranke Symbol, 5-1 Alphae
Johns, 7-2 Alexan Mirror, 6-2 Thit Tech Piyer, 14-1 Pooh Stick, 16-1 Alchelch
Colonnaide, 20-1 Royal Gilet.

5.30 TEMPLERS ROAD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 3m 2f 110yds

BETTRIC: 11-10 Top Javada, 9-4 Kesso, 4-1 Stivering, 5-1 Space Cappe 14-1 Rournet, 25-1 Bottle Black

CHELTENHAM

2.00: 1. SHADOW LEADER (J Osborne) 5-1; 2. Princette 25-1; 3. Nordio Breeze 100-1. 16 ten. 2-1 tev Annegen's Hollow (el), 10, 14. (C. Egerton, Chediteworth), Totas 65-50; £2.40, £6.50, £25.40. Dual Forester £650; £2.50, £2.50, £5.40. Dual Forester £650; £2.40, £6.50, Enc. £6.294. Etc. 569.50. CSF: £120.65. The: £6,294.60; £4,521.50 cented forward to Chellenham 3.15 today. Non Runner: What's The Vertica. 2.35: 1 OR ROYAL (A P McCon 11-2: 2 Squite Sift; 11-2; 3. Cellberte 13-2, 9 na. 11-10 fee Multigan (fel), %, 6. (M Pice, Wellington), Tothe, £7-10; £1-90, £1.80, £1.40, DF: £21.90, CSF: £33-18. Tno:

£25.80. Non Runner: On So Risky. 8.15: 1. MANCE A STAND (A P McCoyl 7-1; 2. Thentrevorld 33-1; 2. Space Tracker 9-2. 17 ran. 7-2 fev Lerge Action (pulled up). 5. 3. (M Pipe, Wellington). Total £8.60; £2.90, £8.60, £2.50. DF. £183.20. CSF. £193.06. Tric: 5316.80

3.55.1. FLYSR'S NAP (D Bodgement 20-1; 2. Storminacion 25-1; 3. General Comunad 9-3 lav. 14 man. 1/h, 1/h. (R Almer, Bland-riott Forum). Totas: 525.AO; 55.70, 55.00. 51.80. DP: £211.80. CSF: £363.28. Tricast: £1.432.48. Tro: £440.50. 4.30: 1_KING LUCIFER (Mr R Thornton) 7-2.2. Times For A Russ 15-8 lin; 3. Lausty Dollar 20-1 11 ras. Nr. 15. (D Nicholson, Terriple Guting, Teter £4.20; £1.90, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £4.40, CSF: £9.73, Triossi

£106.09. Tno: £15.90.

\$.06.9. This \$15.90.
\$.06.1. PHARAMEAR OM: R Therstor!
14-1; 2. Yahasi 7-2 fee; 3. Denting 33-1;
4. Halle Dorring 9-1; 24 res. 2, 5; (D Nicholano, Temple Guting). Total: \$22.00; \$4.50.
\$1.90, \$7.00, \$2.60. DF: \$38.70. CSP:
£60.13, Treast: £1.582.81. Tex: £582.70. 2.20: 1. GREINTELD MANDR IS Taylor 33-1; 2. Shelton Abbey 6-1; 3. Bright Des-thy 50-1 18 rm. 5-2 tox Ruter. 3, % U 5xt5ron). Tota: £119.50; £12.30, £1.30, £16.20, £2.60.00: £371.10.03: £269.01. Tricas: £11.507.13. They not won; £203.82 carried forward to Chelterhern 3.15 today. Jackpot: not worr, £89,272.21 carned forward to Chaterhert today. Plecepot: £332.90. Quadpot: £23.10. Place & £357.96 Place S; £92.38

RACING RESULTS **FONTWELL**

2.30: 1. ELA AGAPI MOU (D Gaingre) 7-1; 2. Silbancons 6-4 fav; 3. Topageov 4-1, 12 ran. 3, 6, (6 L Motre). Foto: £9.70; £2.30, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £6.10. CSF: £17.13.7nc: 2.45; 1. RED BRANCH (f.) Murphy 4-6 fer, 2. Brown Robber 6-1; 3. Colonel Colt 14-1. 4 res. 4, 7. (j. Krig), Tota: £1.80, DF: £2.90, CSF: £4.39, NR: Ryton Run. 3.20: 1. SATCOTNO (P Horior) 8-13 fav; Brackenbeeth 4-1; 3. Win I Did 14-1. 9 res. No. 23. (M. Tompkirs). Total: £1.70; £1.10, £1.90, £2.50. DF: £2.70, CSF: £3.24, Tno: £5.70. NR: Double Achievement.

Following a stewards' inquiry, Brackenheath was disquelified from 1st and placed 2nd. 3.50; 1. ST VILLE (B Powel) 3-1: 2. Roger's Pay 10-1; 2. Rashin 12-1 6 ran. 11-4 fay Swan Street shi-hd, 9. (R Buckler). Tate £1.30, £1.70, £3.50, DF, £10.50, CSF, £25.88. 4.20:1. CREDON (B Ferton) 7-1; 2. Har-ristown Lady 6-1; 3. Master Cornelly 14-1.8 ras. 2-1 to VCCss. 2/, 2. (S VCCs-man). Toba: 59.70; £3.30, £3.30. D7:

£37.40. CSF: £40.71. 4.55: 1. SPUNKE @ Gebeter 15-8 # 4.55: 1. Submits: Q Category 19-5 if for; 2. Certain Shot 15-8 if for; 3. Hot 'n Saucy 6-1, 13 ma. 6, 12. (R Johnson Hougman). Totat: £2.50; £1.10, £1.20, £2.20, £7: £3.50, CSF; £4.50, Tea: £9.20. Placepot: £44.60, Quadpot: £19.60. Place 6: £56.02, Place 5: £39.33.

SEDGEFIELD

2.55: 1. NUWAY IS Toylor 5-1: 2. Man ter Plantyman 8-1; 3. Fern Leoder 8-11 tev.
12 ran. shi-hd, 8. (M Barnes). Toter: £4.50;
£1.90, £2.30, £1.50, Dr. £16.90. CSF.
£44.86, Trict £27.90.
3.30; £ GER CAX M-7 M Pacture 2-1;
2. Kushbeton 11-10 lev; 3. Fordstows 7-2.
7 ran. 1, nk. 10 Duggan), Toter £2.90; £1.90,
£1.80, Dr. £2.50, CSF. £4.94.

4.10: 1. CROSS CANNON (B Storey 4-1: 2. Woster George 6-5 be; 3. Rove De Value 8-1. 4 ran. 7, 10. U Wade). Tota: £4.90. DF: £3.20. CSF: £9.15. 4.45: 1. PONTEVEDRA IN Homodist 5-1; 2. Country Orefield 11-4; 3. Wayuphill 5-2 tor, 12 ma, V., 34. (k Wagan). Total £6,70; £1,70, £1,30, £1,50. Day Forecast £10,60. CSF: £22.00.Tno: £12.40. Non Runner.

5.20; 1. ROTHARI (R Supple) 7-1; 2. Di-among Besch 14-1; 3. Jendorost 16-1. 14 ran, 9-4 fav Clavering (pulled up). stn-hd, stn-hd. (R Rothwell). Tota: £20.00; £4.80, 14.50, £21.70, DF: £31.30, CSF: £115.78. Troper: £1,469.35, Troc not worn: £273.02 to Chefrenham 3.15 today. NR: Mattre De Musique, Silver Miro. Placepot: £2,135.20. Quadpot: £131.30. Place 5: £456.47. Place 5: £92.38.

Mary Reveley and Gary Cahill, the Mary Reveley and Gary Cahill, the trainer and rider of Supreme Target, fell foul of the Sedgebeld stewards to-day when they were found to be in breach of Rule 151 - the non-triers rule following the mare's fourth place behind Ponteredra in the Stanley Racing Novice Hurdle. Cahill was banned from this force and the Ch. 27.2.74. from riding for seven days (20-22, 24-26 and 29 March) while Mrs Reveley was fined £1,000 and the mare suspended from rocing for 30 days (14 March to 12 April).

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Promise is Hubbard's strong suit

Greg Wood lauds the young pretender contesting today's Champion Chase

Rare indeed is the horse who lives up to his name, but for one young steeplechaser, the chance is there at Cheltenham this afternoon to go one better still and surpass it. From the moment his huge, impeccablyhred frame first walked into a parade ring, grand predictions were made for the chasing career of Strong Promise, and at just six years of age, today's Queen Mother Champion Chase may offer the finest opportunity he will ever have to fulfil them.

That his moment could have arrived so soon might seem surprising, since many other jumps-bred store horses of his generation are only now starting to test the water in novice hurdles. Not surprising to Geoff Hubbard, however, the man who cunningly avoids paying training fees by training Strong Promise himself. "He's just that sort of horse," Hubbard said yesterday. "He's terribly wellbred [by Strong Gale]. he's very, very fit and if any horse is going to have a chance tomorrow, it's going to be him."

Cynics might say that the only thing more misleading than a confident owner is a confident owner-trainer, yet Hubbard's belief in his young chaser is truly infectious, despite the presence in today's field of Klairon Davis and Viking Flagship, who between them have won the last three runnings of the two-mile championship. I don't see any problems," Hubbard said. "I might be terribly wrong and they might all heat us, but I've got a funny feeling that if he goes out and he gets in front, any horse that beats him will be the best

two-miler to Europe." There were any number of happy hearts in the blissful spring sunshine at Cheltenham yesterday, but few happier than Huthhard's, since the combina-tion of gentle heat and a steady breeze was acting like a hairdry-will need just five more minutes

ceived plenty of artificial watering in recent weeks. This is bad news not only for both of Strong Promise's most obvious rivals, but also for Ask Tom, the only other runner in the seven-strong field who qualifies as a serious danger.

Strong Promise, on the other hand, is a match for anything when the ground rides fast, as he demonstrated in the Comet Chase at Ascot last month when One Man, twice the King George winner, succumbed by a length. There were those -writer-trainers is Hubbard's dismissive description - who felt that One Man was below his best that day. Shortly after 2.35 today, however, STRONG PROMISE (nap) should

demonstrate that the grey did well to get as close as he did. Anyone offering odds on which of this week's 20 races would provide the tightest finish would probably make the Coral Cup a clear favourite, and a race which in its short life has already become one of the betting highlights of the meeting will again lure any number of punters to their doom.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Golden Spinner (Cheltenham 5.05) NB: Slideofhill (Cheltenham 4.30)

With 29 runners and prices which start at around 8-1, this is never a contest in which deep analysis is likely to be rewarded, but as a sporting, eachway option. Mandys Mantino (3.15), all but propping up William Hill's list at 28-1, could go well. He has been chasing oo his last two outings, but previous solid hurdles form - on a fast surface at Cheltenham, too - gives him a fair chance today.

er on a course which has re- to turn into a disaster if Istahraq



The Flying Phantom crash lands in yesterday's opening race in which the favourite, Finnegan's Hollow (right), also fell

fails to justify favouritism in the Royal SunAlliance Hurdle, which opens today's card. Bet-ting hanks which have been carefully built up since last year's meeting will be risked in one hig hit on Aidan O'Brien's hurdler, but the evidence from yesterday's form is that the confidence will be misplaced. Mentmore Towers (2.00), from Jenny Pirman's yard, could be their downfall, while Hana-kham (3.55) should take the Royal SunAlliance Chase,

Even the Bumper may fall to a British yard, since there is little evidence of an outstanding runner from across the water. Dawn Leader will be the choice of many, but French Holly (5.40) will offer the value.

Dorans Pride is not certain to run in tomorrow's Gold Cup because of the drying ground. His trainer, Michael Hourigan, intends to declare his challenger today but will leave a decision on his participation as late Other cards and results, p 25

Queen Mother Champion Chase - Cheltenham 2.35						
Horse	Corel	William HM	Ladbroken	Tote		
Klairon Davis	5-2	2-1	2-1	2-1		
Viding Flagship	5-2	9-4	5-2	11-4		
Strong Promise	11-4	100-30	100-30	11-4		
Ask Tom	5-1	11-2	11-2	13-2		
Martina's Son	8-1	12-1	10-1	10-1		
Amala Vincuna	18.1	10.1	12.1	10.1		

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2

56-1

66-1

QUEEN MOTH	ER CHAMPI	ON CHASE	- 10-YEAR-	ALE
. 7/2	Court voor to		100 W 15	-2
Parks of the Onionities			State of the last	
Planer's place in het	tiog 1 1 1	1 0 1	4 3 1	. 0
Starting prices:	138.1567	4 11 10 9 Lane	e 11-1 41 52	91
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micetalists of wheel	s placed 1st, 2nd	or 3rd in best can	C.100%	
Shoraist priced when	er Remittence Mag	derá (1992)	F . F . 23	, j
ongest priced with	r: Deen Semation	LE CLASSI	W. Ve area	A 5.
op traloges: D Histori	on Viene Hand	io (1094% 1995)		
D Elswor	di - Bondrook Ag	in (1988 & 1990)		1

Photograph: David Ashdown

CHELTENHAM

2.00: Agistment is very useful but on fast ground is probably better suited by three miles. Istabrag has suited by three miles. Istabra a tall reputation but booking are being more than vigilant with his odds. MENTMORE TOWERS looks hetter value. Jenny Pitman's grey won a bumper on fast ground last season and a fluent success at Uttoreter last time indicated he will go close today.

2.35: KLAIRON DAVIS, who won this race last year and the Arkle in 1995, has hit form at the right time he won at Navan recently - goes on fast ground and can complete a Festival hat-trick. Arctic Kinsman, who gave Viking Flagship a race at Kempton and is a former Festival winner, looks an interesting outsider. but the main danger to the selec-tion looks sure to come from fastground specialist Strong Promise. Ask Tom would prefer more cut, while Martha's Son and Lord Dorcet look up against it.

3.15: Mystical City acts well on fast going and will be a threat if recap-turing the form that saw him win the Galway Hurdle from Space

Trucker, BLAST FREEZE, anoth er best on a sound surface, has been specially trained for this prize by a stable with a good Festival record. He limbered up with a third-place finish over an inadequate two miles at Wincanton last time. Tully nurs ry Toff, unbeaten this season, mus 000

3.55: DJEDDAH has recorded two 3.55: DJEDDAH has recorded two smart performances in his forast here from France, looking particularly impressive when taking a Grade One novice chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. Both successes were on last ground. Martin Pipe's novices are to be feared and both Endipe and Indian Tracker have claims. The former is the sein his three runs in this country and in his previous races in France, he showed a liking for soft ground.

Hollow's downfall leaves a void

GREG WOOD reports from Cheltenham

The cheer which greeted the start of the Festival yesterday was as heartfelt as ever, but so too was the groan which quick by followed. When Finnegan's Hollow hit the turf three out in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, an armoured car's worth of major bers, including two of £10,000 to win £30,000 went with him, and for many the grim process of getting out of trouhle had started even before the

first winner was past the post. Not that there was not some cause for celebration, since Shadow Leader, one of the most impressive winners the race has seen, had attracted sufficient support to shrink to 5-1 second favourite. Immediate post-race offers for next year's Champion Hurdle were as short as 20-1, though the medical ma ture of the comments by Charlie Egerton, his trainer, implied that backers looking that far

ahead should take care. "Shadow Leader has had bad knees and we kept patching them up," Egerton said, "He has been a difficult horse to train, we had problems with recurring lameness and we nearly stopped him at Christmas. Things have been going wrong all year so now I think I will celebrate."

The weather-beaten faces in the ring cracked into even broader smiles half an hour later, when Mulligan became the second hot favourite to make an early exit in the Arkle Trophy (Large Action completed an unfortunate treble in the Champion when he too failed to complete). Or Royal, Martin Pipe's 15th Festival winner, was the one to benefit in the Arkle, after a thrilling head-to-head battle with Squire Silk from the last fence which probably made the victory appear more difficult than it was. He may even at-tempt to follow up in the Cathcart Chase tomorrow.

Flyers Nap, winner of the 1995 Folke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase, completed his own Festival double in the Astec Buzz Shops Chase, but many backers thoughts were with Maamur, pulled up early in the race with a fractured right leg. The popular grey could not be saved.





You thought Dunwoody had won everything.

At 2.40pm, he will have. (Viking Flagship: 5/2.)

QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE

2m. Chellenham, 2	35pm. Live on CH4.
2/1 Klairon Davis	10/1 Martha's Son
5/2 Viking Flagship	12/1 Arctic Kinsman
10/3 Strong Promise	66/1 Lord Darcet
11/2 Ask Tom	
	se odds a pince 1,2.
CORAL CUP H	CAP HURDLE
	3.15pm. Live on CH4.
7/1 Tullymurry Toff	22/1 Mystical City
8/1 Copper Boy	25/1 Ballynhy Boy
8/1 Supreme Lady	25/1 Metastasio
12/1 Blast Freeze	25/1 Nijmegen
12/1 Rawy	28/1 Sesame Seed
14/1 Castle Sweep	33/1 Gysart
14/1 Direct Route	50/1 Or Leunt
14/1 Ela Mata	50/1 Lying Eyes
14/1 Family Way	50/1 Non Vintage
16/1 Sea Victor	56/1 Tamarpour
14/1 Family Way 16/1 Sea Victor	50/1 Non Vintage

109/1 Edgemoor Prince 200/1 Scottish Wedding 22/1 Mandys Mantino alks (SP place terms and Tatternalis rule 4(c) may a These prices may have changed since this newspaper printed. For the very latest prices, page Lathroles Tele 605/6 (Ch4) or call late any Laterglas shop.

56/1 Tamarpour 66/1 Eton Gale 66/1 Fatack

Ladbrokes

CHELTENHAM 2.00 Agistment 3.15 BLAST FREEZE (nap) 5.40 Dawn Leader 3.55 Djeddah (nb)

B. Left-hard, galloping course with said fences. Upfull run-in of 240yd.
■ Course is one mile north of town off A435. Buts link from Chekenham mil sauton [served by Brestol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMESSION: Clob S50; Tattersails 520; Courage Enclosure \$10. CAR PARK: 55. SIS ■ LEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS WITH BUNNEES: Il Nicholoou — 6 winners from 59 ninuers gives a success ratio of 10.2% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$22.00; M Pipe — 6 winners, 125 runners, 4.3%, ~\$70.00; E O'Grady — 4 winners, 17 runners, 27.5%, +\$18.50; A L T Mignore — 3 winners, 18 runners, 16, 7%, +\$35.0.

■ LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKEYS: C F Swan — 9 winners, 55 rides, 18.4%, +\$31.76; M Dwyer — 5 winners, 37 rides, 13.5%, +\$19.00; N Williamson — 4 winners, 19 rides, 11.1%, +\$6.30; A Magnire — 4 winners, 29 rides, 14.3%, -\$7.00.

BLINKEKEED FIRST TIME: Harbour faland (2.00; Tannerpour (3.16); Bullyca Boy (4.30); Siddeofhill (1.30). WINNEES IN Tell LAST SEVEN DAJEs None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNEES (FROM WITHIN BRITAIN): Ballyline (3.5%) has been sent 318 miles by W Kemp from Duns, Bordera. 200 ROYAL SUNALLIANCE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) TOTAL

4.30 Flimsy Truth

5.05 Noyan

14	200	(Grade 1) £45,000 added 2m 5f £49,585	
1	161-111	AGISTMENT (34) (Marquesi de Mosacara) FiziGerald 6 11 7	
2			
3	16130	DARRAYDAN (46) (C) (D A Johnson) M Pice 5 11 7	S florte
4	123063	DIFFICULT TIMES (18) IP M Downel G Lyons (III) 5 11 7	S C Lva
5	220-112	FUNEST MORY (34) (D) The Old Foresters Portnershot () Nicholson 611 7.	R Johns
Б			
7			
8	41-2016	HAPPONNTE (39) (BF) (TJA Consultants Ltd) 6 Balling 7 11 7	B Femb
9	2111	ISTABRAQ (38) U P McMarusi A O'Bren (10) 5 11 7	CF SM
10	P54	LATAMANE (USA) (19) (Sir Enc Panier) J Grand 6 11 7	
12		MENTINORE TOWERS (32) (Phip Marton) Mrs J Perran 5 11 7	R Ferra
13			
14			
15			
	313300	PRUSSIA (32) (The Prussia Partnership) W Cay 6 11 7	Cury Law
	1203-11	RED BLAZER [42] (Exors of the laze Mr T H Shorroson) Mass H Knight 6 11 7	Oabon
30	2112年		_D Bridgest
		- 20 declared -	
for	est wory,	Alighty Moss, 20-1 Marching Marquis, The Proms, 33-1 Boss Doyle, D	waydan, Dil
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 7 18 19 30 BE	1 161-111 2 42712 3 161-30 4 123063 5 220-112 6 14-230 8 41-3016 8 41-3016 9 2111 10 P54 11 1-402-13 12 1-221 13 3-11222 16 313300 15 104-25 16 313300 17 1203-11 18 227-36 19 33-512 10 21124 BETTINGE: 13-4	2 42712 BOSS DOTILE (34) (Mis A M Day) M Morrs (th 5 11 7 1613) CHARDMAN (NO) CE, (I) A forescript M Pob 5 11 7 12005 DIFFICULT TIBES (18) PM Owning 6 (1974) M Pob 5 11 7 12005 DIFFICULT TIBES (18) PM Owning 6 (1974) M Pob 5 11 7 144230 M POB 11 7 144231 M POB 11 8 1 144230 M POB 11 7 144231 M POB 11 8 1 144230 M POB 11 1 144230 M POB 11 8 1 144230 M POB

1996: Unubande 6 11 7 C F Switt B-1 (4 P O'Bnen) 24 ran

FORM GUIDE

It can be argued that ROYALTINO did not best much if a nowice handle at Kernston 19 days ago, although Malersford, who was just behind Labalheab in Shahag an 11-length fifth, gave the form a minor boost by numing Friendish code at Switchino test Friends. But Francisc Doublem thints a fair but of Royaltino, who was conceiding 90 to most on low termition mats and was unatured by the steady gallop. Royaltino managed to win impressively despite having to endure a flow and a hard hours' deby frough seask at the Callas temporit the previous day. This tip in a last him as a facilitation show him in an even better light and his continuable bumper win from 23 mais at Marwock test February (Migray Mass the national light and his continuable bumper win from 23 mais at Marwock test February (Migray Mass the national light and his continuable bumper win from 23 mais at Marwock test February (Migray Mass the national light and much protes only ground. This stock which has a to trick both grown at other himson at much protess of ground. This stock which has a to trick body at double himson at Hustingdon Last make, would both he happer in the much attribute and a double himson at Hustingdon Last make, would both he happer in the may be best with plenty of give in the ground. He best all bar Dato Stay in the Festivation ton years ago and he was noticen with the current confedence to best 15 mails over the examined 20 furnings, at Lecostor key, time, listablesq has a too-furcic Pat pedigiee but has taken well to husting and he is unbedgen in inter nate since huding off with a head second in Noble Tighte of Punchessions in Noberthead.

		2.35	QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £130,000 added 2m £81,650	C4
ı	1	122F4I2	ARCTIC KINSMAN (18) (D) (Mrs P. E. History) N Twiston-Dones 9 12 0	C Llowell
ł	ī		ASK 10% (53) (D) (B Separt-Brown) 77/26 8 12 0	
П	3	41-2F21	NUARRON DAMS (FR) (32) (CD) C longs A L 1 Moore (m) B 12 0	F Woo
Ш	4	3-3F312	LORD DORGET (26) (D) yorn Hogg) J Charton 7 12 0	J Qabor
Ц	5	1113/2-F	MARTHA'S SON (18) (0) (F 1 Hartgard T Forster 10 12 0	R Feets
П	6	112141	STRONG PROMISE (35) (C) (D) (G 4 Hubbard) G Hubbard 6 12 0	_H YRELES
ı	7	212-241	Value FLAGSHIP (28) (CD) Reach Foods Limited: D Nicholson 1.0 12 0	R Distance
В			~ 7 declared ~	
ľ			B Rizakon Dunin, 5-2 Vilding Flagsbip, 7-2 Strong Promise, 5-1 Aut Tom, :	12-1 Marth
П	Sq	a, 20-1 Am	tic Kinsman, 50-1 Lord Dorcet	
Ľ	19	96; Maron	Dayles 7 12 0 F Woods 9-1 (A L T Moore) 7 ran	

See, 20-1 areon event manner, 54-1 Long borner; 7 cm.
1996: Rearon Devis 7 12 of Febrois 9-1 (A L 1 Moore) 7 cm.
1996: Rearon Devis 7 12 of Febrois 9-1 (A L 1 Moore) 7 cm.
Taking on the crack bro-miers purs the screen or STROMS PROMISE, who is probably best with a greater emphasis on stamma. Yet he has always promised to be an outstanding creater and will lone the ground. He has seen the out of eight over tenness the service reserved as returning to, Asout man there and also the First National Bank Gold Cup and then the Comes, both a Record, Time, notes can be picked in the Cornet form Clim 37-th with One Man balage to scanle and Sound Man doubling a tence or three, but Strong Promise, wicces creaternals also notable a second to Challeger Ou (up in the Marphi's Gold Cup rea in November, comes here historied up by a bre-seek break and is given and genume. Mallison Dimak from the Affice Chase they layers back is the descripting dishappen and the had they lengths to space over Villading Paugahlip (the 1994 and 1995 record in good to soft going 12 morths ago. As the younger horse, Name Gold and the had they lengths from the section of the Name last time. He acts well enough in good ground to be remed down as the one to beer. Villading Stephen law may been disher and Disku Nichston's stokent, who also had two Meding Chase and statuted; in the looker, stopped well under diskup on the problem of the section of the stopped and plant problems made section. He had the problems were pleased as punch with the way he despited of Arethe Research, Martin's Son has field a live problems and section of the field all punches on sections. As good jumper one to builder repowerent, he has tall a preparation gested to Chellerhon-Armee and the section of the law of the field the section of the section of the section of the power of the section of the sectio en stampta). A good jumper coen to futher empowement, he has had a preparation gested to Chebenhom/Anthee and should go well. Lond Dorque looks outsiassed. Selections STRONG PROMISE

Ī	45	CORAL	CUP H	ANDICA	HURDLE	(CLASS B) lue £41,486	
19	בדינ	£40.000	added	2m 5f P	enalty Va	ue £41.486	150
1						0	
5	1.11232	MANDYS M	PRILING (50)	ACO ADO CHES	John Placketh	Good 7 11 8	P 166
3	00PO-81	ALLEGATION	CESS ACS (M	artin Pipe Rac	ane Club! M Pro	07116	A P McCov
4	411513	DESCTROU	TE (32) (Ch	rs Herord 1 14	want Johnson (5112	
5	117760	MYSTICAL C	01Y (95) (Ph	antom Syndic	BE) W Mutting (07111	D J Casery (3
5	611-111	YULLYMUTH	Y TOFF (39)	U H Wilson &	LONGER HEALT	M Jefferson 6 10 13	E Cultechan [3
7	4112-10	EXECUTIVE	DESIGN (60)	(LT Foster)	Mrs M Reveley S	5 10 10	P Novo
8	P03-003	KUSSAIR (18	(C) (Texty E	Benson) M He	nderson 6 10 8		R Darmood)
9	1133-11	SUPREME L	ADY (22) (1)	te Supreme L	ady Parinershipi	Miss H Nnight & 10	S Cullate
10	1257-24	FAMILY WAY	(60) UPM	cMagus A1	Moore (vi) 10	10 5 bason 8 10 4	FW00t
11	2103/F3	BLAST FREE	ZE (20) (Po	neer Heat-Tra	atment) N Hend	terson 8 10 4	M A Fitzgorak
12	100-221	RAWY (USA)	FOR UP M	CMETUSI C FIG	che (M) 5 10 4		C C'Duyer &
13	665001	HON VINCAS	E (22) (Alan	: Manri M Cit	apman 6 10 4 .		W Worthington
14	517-11	COPPER BU	Y (203) (FOS) (C	Raymond) R	Buckler 8 10 4		B Powel
25	D/-0560S	DR LEWIT ((S) (Peter En	neryl P Hotobs	810 3		G Tormey
7/5	mouse	707 Mar 147-19 7	25) /JV Hand	n Julia de Cara	879303		
17	534515	MEDASIASK	(117) (F Ma	ioni II McArd	8 OM 5 10 3	102	
18	3-12111	ELA MATA (93 (m) th 1 s	Spireduly) Mrs	A SMINDANK 5	102	
19	00P-121	BRE STRAND	(19) (E C X	ones) M Proe	B 10 0		EVEND
20	053/01-	TANAMPOU	i (new) (T22	es) (D) (Mrs A	BON C PERSON	M Pipe 10 10 0	-R Moore (1) s
21	0211046	LINE EIES	(25) (NOTER	a Headisch) W	TUMBER BILL U.		PORTE (1)
22	11-1315	615AKI (37)	MAZ 45 COD	00001 M P-08 8	DW		
23	APRILIFO	PALACK (18)	ICI DERIN	W S GRADER	L Menner 9 TO	0	
24	#ZIPU-5	SESAME SE	ED (DR) (CO)	more Hours	N HEIGHSON 9	10 0	ووالبيون لــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
25 26	11113	SCA TILIUM	CTT (FOL) ()	AND AUGUS S	L Halus a 100.	6 10 0	
27	224511	EMILITARITY (MT (21) (M	J Composit Co	DE DI SMELLI (BU)) III 0	D Market
28	32-02-3	EIGH PATE	COOK IN LAN	asni ilionas	CORPA (MA D 10)	8 10 0	'To Entirement
29	19,1201	ELASEBRACK	MINISTER IN	h true series	rests) Production	S Down Title 7 40	O D Harrier (3)
				- 29 dec	fored -	& Deem) T Well 7 10	
S. French	inum weigh	t 10st fine	опосар та	STOR LYING BY	er 9 at 13th, Op	ant Sat 13th, February	St. 12th, Sesame
See	d 9st 11h	See Victor 9	st 10th, Bat	lyddy Boy 9st	9th, Elbn Gald	9st 26, Edgemoor	Prince Str 10th,

Sens Set Line Set Victor St. Annual Sension of Sension Sension

1996: Trangot 9 10 3 M Dwyer 11-2 U G Frageraldi 20 ran

	over, Manity's Manting. Selection	SUPREME LA
3.55	ROYAL SUNALLIANCE (NOVICE) CHASE (CLASS (Grade 1) £75,000 added 3m 1f £57,282	A)
1	(Grade 1) £75,000 added 3m 1f £57,282	- September 1988
	BALLYLINE (29) (The 49 Partnersho) W Kemp 6 11 4	
2 11F-113		R Johns
	BOLL STAFFOOY (19) (K W Bell & Son Ltd) / O'Shen 8 11.4	Jitichael Broom
	BERLIDE NOT TO (19) (G Addiscott) O Shewood 8 11 4	
	SUCKHOUSE BOY (25) (The Bawey Boys) N Toeston-Davies 7 11 4	
	CORREC (18) (S J O'Suman) A O'Brien (NO 7 114	
7 4-P1P12	CROWN EQUERRY (14) (BF) (Robert Ogden) G Richards 7 11 4	N Williams
8 130P11	DJEDDAH (FR) (35) (Mrs Stelly Elleam) F Doumen (Fr) 6 11 4	A Moud
	SLITTER ISLE (28) (Mrs Timothy Pilengton) J Gelloni 7 11 4	
	HANAUHAM (20) (DI (M Breston) R Hodges 8 11 4	
11 42-2371	HAMMANN SAM (27) (Robert K Russelly Andrew Russell 7 11 4	G Cro
	SHOUGHT TRACKER (38) (D) (3F) (Jos & Joenna Richards) M Pipe 7 11 4	
	RAMINAZE (33) (BF) (Mayor B Gatersbury) K Bailey 7 11 4	
14 62	LORD MUFF (10) (Luke Corner) Luke Corner® 11 4	K 19na
	THE LAST FLING (25) (0) (EF) (M Jectson Bloodshoo) Mrs S Smith 7 11	
	BUDDPE (FR) (19) (C A Johnson) M Pros 5 10 8	
_	4-4-1	

Last Fileg., 50-1- others

1898/R Nation Lad 7 11 4 W Mersion 7-1. New J Phonon's 12 can

PORMI GUIDE

BERUDE NOT FO, bouched off in the Sun Albance Novace thurde here in 1995, had been making steady of unspeciacular progress over fences after messing the best part of lest seeson, that is until misd in hithless, at Necrotica last parts. The brandom was quite dearrance and the eight-year-old sea always travelling seasetly before drawing away in the straight to best Obart and Andwolf in good cayle. If this clinicists have the same effect alphan he should leave his previous has at Chespiture - his only defeat over femals this seagon - behind and plut himself in with a good crame of this major prize. That Cheppiture also went to Terminasee length be the length and of the himself in with a good crame of this major prize. That Cheppiture alone were the less, and Beroteet, with Berude Not To a nech back in fourth after vealeding early in the straight. That was some performance from such an exceptioned horse as Indian Tracks, not impresse where at Alverton of his only other start over tences mount come straight from NH Flat racks. The Exvery-year-old has a bright humen, trough being such as grand son in may well need cut in the ground to be seen at his beat. Tak of helper Tracks only helper good as grand son in ending a straight provided the second report the most provided by the second report the most provided by the second report the second report of the provided report of the provided report of the second report the second report of the second report of the second report of the second report of the second report the second report of thi

1	4	.30	NATIONAL HUNT (AMATEUR REDERS) CHASE £25,000 added 4m Penalty Value £21,525	(CLASS B)
	1.0	4-1165	BALLYEA 90Y (33) (Danis Barryl O Michotson 7 12 7	All R Thornton E
•	2. 4	11201	CAPO CASTANERA (5) (O C O Oyle-Thompson) Miss H Knight 8 12 7	
•			CARDINAL RULE (12) (BF) (Peter J Burch) Mess Venete Williams 8 12 7	
•	4	17172	DROBBINEA (26) U Blackwell, T Choppell, T Cury & D Nichols P Nichols 7	12 7 Mr J Thrawd
1	5 :	221314	FUNKSY TRUTH (SIZ) (C) (M H Weston) M Weston 11 12 7	Mr M Plants
)	6 2	53121	GENERAL POSSO (32) (Mrs.) K Posson T George 8 12 7	
	7	12213U	1RISH LIGHT (22) (Michael J McDonegh) Michael J McDonagh (vi) 9 12 7.	
1	8. :	L46811.	MACAIRITA (CC) (Nos F Wholest A McNamora (N) 7 12 7	Mr. J.T. Mickeyster
_	. 9 6	24121	RAMDON HARVEST (22) &C C Buckley! N/s M Revoley 8 12 7	Mr 5 Swiess
	10	14	DRUID'S BROOK (25) (Reong Club HCB) K Baley 8 12 4	Mr A Parket
'	11 Q	000-51	ITSAJUNGLEDUT/HERE (28) OA F Montg M Monte (In) 7 12 4	- W Britis
	12	1.RJ	MASTER KIT (15) U N R BRings) J Brings 8 12 4	
			VOL PAR NUIT (USA) (37) (D O Morayes) F Doursen (Fg6 12 4	
,			CERROWEN (23) (Mrs 5 Greethead) T Greathead 7 12 2	
	15 1	P-1933	MSILU (13) (A G Ley) K Bulley 7 12-2	_Mr O McPhell B
i	16 4	Z3533	CHARLE PARROT (29) (Mrs. Alson C Favent) M Pipe 7 12 0	
	1/ U	-04.4	EAST ENGELT (LS) (SETME) Harper & Periodes C Metric / 12 U	
			LOCH GARMAN HOREL (23) Con Hall P Dalton 8 12 0	
1	19 .	224	PARAMANDY (25) (Highlyers) G Bolding 7 12 0	
•	20 9	1253PP	PLASSY BOY (7) (The Sebestien Dengarilato Panneship) K Burke B 12 0	Mr > Where V
	21 0	3-4042	ROBSAND (33) (Sir Brian McGrath) 6 Belding 8 12 0	Air A Balding
1	22	3-262	SUDBOFIEL (22) (J P McMarus) J J O'Neil B 12 0	Mr P Featon 8
1	23 0	0-F524	WIDEDE WORDER (26) (P J O Pottinger) M Bradstock 7 12 0	Nr E Jarges
•	24 1	U-212P	LETTLE MARTINA (32) (BF) (Chistopher Newport) O Gressell 9 11 13	Mr C Bounes
١.	25 8	22232	COOLAFREIA (17) (Milliam Hoving) J A Borry (n) 8 11 9	Mr 3 Beny
			YOUNG MRS NELLY (12) (No P & Kely) Elic McNamara (107 11 9 - 28 declared -	-,
	BEIL	16: 11:3	Vol Par Null, 6-1 Random Harvest, 8-1 Slideofish, 10-1 Doubts Rose	k. Several Pos-
	20, B	bosod,	12-1 Ballyon Boy, 14-1 Drombana, Irish Light, 16-1 Itsajungiocutit	ere. Premiumis.

20-1 Confident, Utile Bletths, 25-1-Flerey Rush, Blackesta, Young Mrs Reily, 23-1 others 1996: Losing Atound 8 11 13 Mr P Ferion 10-1 (E J O'Graby) 22 ren

HOBSAND showed he needs this distance when fourth behind Brook at Toucester (2010) in Jen-tery, Robsand pur on a sets belief performance when going down lighting to Jet Rules over 3 and them last time. Belly uses an ansterd has more forces senter in the season, whening at Touces-ter and Exists; and is being that in biolesis after going off the boil.

Selection: ROBSAND

	5.05	MILDMAY OF FLETE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £30,044	£35.0
	1 38-4111	MONNEGA XING CHR ICO AN Aformates Ltd. C Shenwood 21 40	100
	2 2F1130	MEN CO (25) (O) (Done of the late Mis L C Roger) M Mords (M) 9 11 R	COD
	3 23221-1	, AIR SRRIT (253 DWs Pider Provided D Nicholson 7 11 7	E labor
	4 03/11/3	ROUNAN 46740 ND (Pear Mines) Mrs. Phrese 11 11 6	D 25-
	5 32-2131	GOLDEN SPRINER (32) (0) (Mrs H Matherd-Inner) N Henderson 10 11 S 👊	A Charles
			C Tow
	7 343/42-5	CANEERCY (FIG. 129) IDA (Sim Leans) T Kerts, 7 41 2	'A 46
	0 71504-0	PASANO POR GELIAR MERCAGA IDOMI IN HENGEMAN 16 11 7	D -
	9 7021-32	NEODEIN HEE (35) (IR Obsteen Hide Partnershir) M Salaman 11 18 13	20 14
	10 (7492)	ALL THE ACES (25) ON I P MeMarus I I Crates so 40 44	
	11 31321-2	DESTRIY CALLS (11) (2) 48F) (Mrs R W S Robert N Complete 7 10 G	D 04
	12 P-6P902	TESCRE 1229 KIN IS A WINSINGS NA PINA 11 10 7	
	11 12-2232	SOUTHAMPION (25) (EF) (Highways) G Palaine 7 3 h 6	D. C
	14 (-1812)	NOTAN CLES GUT CC N MICETAEL R FAINES 7 10 1	A Del
	15 13/8-31	AS DU TRESLE (FR) (US) (D A Johnson) M Pice 9 10 0	A P No
	16 F11142	BEATSON (34) (C) Dies E.B Gardinery R Buckler 8 10 0	- doub
		- 16 declares -	
	Minimum web	frc: 10st, True handkap weights: Beetson 9st 12h.	
	BETTIME 7-2	As Du Treffe, 6-1 Doubley Calle, 13-2 Hoyan, 15-2 Air Shot, 8-1 Golden S	-
•	New Co. 12-1	Morranto War 14.1 Northern Life 18.1 27 The Agen Helle His Ton	

1996: Old Bridge 8 B 7 G Crone 14-1 (Anthew Turnell) 13 ren DESTRY CALLS is an improving every year old and be put up in decent performance when bearing Septimination (only Six heter in and not visitly sing as well this session) and Challenger Du Luc over this specialist instance at Sandown less April; Golden Spitaner instens a high of winning over the distance and conversees in the convertient of form after the 2D Jength defeat of Easthorpe at Newbury Jean month, Konwieten Ring has gone from strength to storage in the bearing Southamption (1.5th better in) over two makes here in November, An Du Traille has come back in remarkable form considering he masted three selections are the hims talk-on the challenge in the challenge in the challenge of the chal

en t	chasing	like a duck to water.	DESTRAY CALLS
5	لتت	WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (OPEN NH F (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £25,000 added 2m 110yo	le \$19 780
1	12	ARCIDIC CAMPER (12) (D) (D) (12) (130) Harrist (1 Miranison E 11-2	
2	19-2	DALLAU INVISIONES, ISSU SUN ILLE SYNOWN I SERCEMAN S 74 C	Th
3		CEUSI PRINCI (M. MORT H. MORT X 2 7 6	
4			
5	1-1	DAWN LEADER (26) (D) (Bosspool) J Cld 8 11 8 DOM SELTRANC FOR (22) (Cld Wight) N Trinco-David 5 11 8	G (delete
· 8	5122	DOM SETTRANO (FIL) (32) (Car Water) N Tricker Desire 5 11 8	ماسول الساد
7			
8			
9			
10	1-11	PURPLEMENTALE (72) (D) (Mrs 7 Graed J Carry (Mrs 11 6.	
11			
12			
1.3			
14			
15			
. 18			
17			
28			
19			
20			
21	2	WITH THE CHANGES CONTINUED IN THE STATE OF T	10
22	. 1	FROM PRINCE (62) (0) (1) P Makingurij A (78) (0) 4 10 12	**************************************
23	1	FRANCE WELOW (42) (D) 645 8 Mestamoni P Grello 68 4 10 12	La D A

23 1 FRANCE Willow 4428 (7) fals 8 Maximums) P Graffin (fit 4 10 12 Mer P Graffin
24 1 MINSON, MARTHAN (30) (7) (Dr Machael Stream) () White (50) 4 10 12 C O'Dropez
25 1 SIGNIVARIE (36) (7) Stream O'Drouves F Dournes (7) A 10 7 Mer T Dournes (7)

26 Signific 4-1 Floritie Peerl, 5-1 Daniel Lander, 15-2 Edintands, 19-1 All The Cologys, Nor Marthans,
Servand Wildersein, 12-1 Franch ffolgs, Sir Lurgeit, 14-1 Finite Petron, Marchael Mayhon, 15-1 Arefic
Camper, Furnicareville, Our Bell, 25-1 Done Bellerano, 33-1 others
1850: Wither Or Which 5 11 6 Nr W Makes 11 4 (W P Magne) 24 (24) Life P Graffin C O'Dwyse 7 Downess (5)

18/1 Kissair 20/1 Executive Design 22/1 . Allegation

مكذا من الأصل

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Liverpool set for Anfield showdown against United

Manchester United could have to conquer Anfield on 19 April to retain their Premiership crown after Liverpool wrested control of the title into their own

Service Co

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(mar. 1 mar. 1 mg) - 1

Only a point behind after the wild drams of their last gasp deja vu 4-3 triumph over Newcastle on Monday, they will be champions if they win all their

remaining games.
"I'll settle for 4-3 from the next nine games - my heart can take it, just about," the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, said. His fury at the loss of a 3-0 lead had the dressing-room walls

'We have never been out of it. People keep saying teams are in and out of the race like a yoyo but I still think there are five teams with a very good chance."

That includes Newcastle, who still have to go to Old Trafford, a game that will need their scintillaring victory over rescheduling from 23 April if Porto, remain the bookies' United reach the European, favourites. That has as much to Cup semi-finals.

Slaven Bilic is in West Ham's

Park tonight after assuring his

manager Harry Redknapp that

he is committed to the club's rel-

egation fight for the rest of the

riated the club's supporters

when it emerged that he had.

15m transfer talks with Everton

at the weekend. However, he:

has rejected Everton manager Joe Royle's offer, which would

have made him the Liverpool

club's best paid player if he had.

left the Hammers under a clause in his newly signed Up-ton Park contract which allows

him to deal with top clubs that

never my intention to leave at

this time. I want to reassure

West Ham I am staying for at

least the rest of the season. I am

not the rat who leaves a sink-

ing ship, as I have been told

Wrexham yesterday broke

their outgoing transfer record

by selling their promising mid-fielder Bryan Hughes to Birm-

ingham City for a fee of £1m.

night and he obviously thinks

The striker Daniele Dichio is

son despite turning down the year.

I'm worth it," Hughes said.

"It's a massive fee for a 20year-old Second Division play-cr, but I met Trevor Francis last

somebody called me."

offer more than £4.5m.

The Croat centre-back infu-

ALAN NIXON

Kenny Dalglish's side, shellshocked after history repeated itself right down to the injurytime winner by Robbie Fowler, have to make up nine points from their last 10 games, a

daunting challenge.

When we got it back to 3-3 it was looking perfect for Manchester United, but instead victory was perfect for Liverpool and bad for us," the Newcastle manager insisted. "But it's not finished yet, is it? I didn't see anyone handing out the champ-ionship medals after the game, just as they didn't after the 4-3

"It puts Liverpool in a better position than us but we still have to go to United - and anything

United, though unexpectedly vulnerable at Sunderland and with their focus now firmly on the European Cup after 1980s Liverpool side as the their scintillaring victory over best of all time, a mean machine

sides when it had them round the throat. Not so Evans' current side, who have so often demonstrated an attitude bor-Bilic committed to dering on smugness and, in this deadly brave new world of the global Premiership, that West Ham's cause can prove fatal. It cost them the FA Cop tie

at Chelsea and no fewer than 15 home points dropped this sca-son. Fowler said: "I was dechance to leave Loftus Road lighted to get the winner because when it got to 3-3 I and join Wimhledon's Preiniership campaign. "A move to Wimbledon was thought that was it. But it's viteam to face Chelsea at Upton , not right for my career at this. tal that we start winning all our stage, but I am a free agent in home games." Evans was right to point out

arrogance Liverpool have about

their game as their occasional

full potential, it probably has more flamboyance and more

fiair than any of the other Liv-erpool sides I have played in."

John Barnes, their captain, said.

"But that's not what's impor-

tant. We need to play well in every game, not just for one in three. When United won it last

year I felt we were the best side

and when Blackburn won the

League I felt United were the

best. But the champions were

more consistent and that's what

"Occasionally we will win 5-0 and play beautiful football

and that's great. But I would rather us play close to our po-

tential and grind out results."

that never failed to kill off

That is why Barnes rates the

"When this side plays to its

the summer and would look at any opportunity to play abroad, Dichio said. how stupid it would have been to have lost a match they totally Mike Sheron is ready to ask controlled for more than 70 Stoke City for a transfer after minutes, but it so nearly hap-the club rejected Queen's Park pened.

Rangers latest offer. The £25m This was not the cut and

thrust of last April's seven-goal rated striker has a clause in his contract saying he has to be told of all bids over £2m, but it has thriller, the pragmatism of Dalglish replacing the cavalier instincts of Kevin Keegan to the proved worthless as Stoke have so far informed him and then disgust of Newcastle fans who had never seen such a spineless display from their side. Chelsea's bravery earned Andy Dibble was baving talks with Rangers yesterday and is

their comeback at the Bridge keen to make his loan move perbut the Geordies only got back minient. Rangers want to sign: the Manchester City goalkeepinto it, Evans said, because have called me stupid for not Theo Suelders, going to Evertum now but it was Steve Guit, the simple things and started getting Steve Gritt, the Brighton and flash. Hove Albion manager, has hinted he might resign if his club are

... "We started looking for the extra touch," he complained. But he insists his rage was docked more points by the short-lived: "I concentrated on Albion could be facing more the positive side - three points against Newcastle and some fantastic football. That's good punishmem after home fans invaded the pitch during the

thrilling 4-4 home draw with Leyton Orient. Five arrests enough for me in the end." It was, after all, yet another match-of-the-season in this dewere made after fans allegedly attacked one of Orient's veloping rivalry between two gigoalscorers, Scott McLeish, and ant clubs, and for one man at the former England midfielder least, it was a joy to be at the heart of all the rollercoaster Ray Wilkins. The Barcelona coach, Bob-

by Robson, said yesterday he has started legal proceedings "It's the best game I have been involved in for many years," said the referee, David Elleray. against his previous club, Porready to leave Queen's Park to, over alleged unpaid salaries "Fantastic, open football, a few mistakes and everything that Rangers at the end of the sea- and bonuses dating from last English football is all about."



هكذا من الأصل

Robbie Fowler celebrates scoring Liverpool's injury-time winner at Antield on Monday (above) white an irate Newcastle fan throws his replica shirt at manager Kenny Dalglish (below) when his team were still 3-0 down Photographs: Empics/Allsport



Hamburg is target for Graf's return

Tennis

IAN TASKER

Steffi Graf, who will lose her world No I ranking to Martina Hingis on 31 March after a total of 377 weeks at the top, is hoping to make a comeback at the end of April in the German Open in Hamhurg.

Graf, who has been out of action for more than a month, is to undergo an examination on her injured knee in the next few

The 27-year-old Graf has not played since the semi-finals of the Tokyo tournament on I February. She has trained a little since then, but doctors have told her not to do anything too strain on her knee.

Mark Philippoussis, the 20-year-old Australian who won the ATP tournament in Scottsdale on Sunday, was yesterday selected for the Davis Cup squad to play the Czech Republic.

Philippoussis returns to the team after missing the Australian Open and the Davis Cup first-round tie against France due to tendinitis in his right arm.

He joins Patrick Rafter, Todd Woodhridge and Mark Woodforde for the quarter-final against the Czech Republic in Adelaide from 4 to 6 April.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. playing in her first tournament under her new coach, her eldest brother, Emilio, advanced to the quarter-finals of the Evert Cup in Indian Wells, California.

Sanchez Vicario, the top seed, who has not won a tournament since Hamburg last May, easily beat Asa Carlsson, of Sweden, 6-1, 6-3. However the third-seeded Anke Huber lost 6-4, 6-3 to Nathalie Tauziat, the 13th seed from France.

In the quarter-finals Sanchez Vicario will meet Sandrine Testud of France in one quarter-final while Tauziat takes on the sixth seed, Irina Spirlea of Ro-

Attendances fall in NFL

American football

Attendances fell in the National Football League by almost 600,000 last season but the total was still the second-highest in the league's 77-year history.

Total paid attendance was 18.648,981, down from 1995's record total of 19,202,757. The regular-season total of more than 14.6m, an average of 60.885 per game, was also the second highest behind 1995's total.

For the third consecutive season, the Kansas City Chiefs led the NFL in regular-season home attendance with an eightgame total of 628,460.

Darryl Henley, the former Los Angeles Ram, has been sentenced to more than 40 years in prison for drug trafficking and conspiracy to commit murder.

debut and upstaged his more il-

lustrious pace partners.
One worry for the West In-

dies is the fitness of lan Bish-

op. He left the field towards the

end of Monday complaining of

pain in his right leg. The second

Test begins in Port-of-Spain.

Marshall and misfortune compound Booth's misery

Robert Marshall, from the Bainfield club in Edinburgh, completed a disappointing day for County Antrim's Neil Booth when he won the singles title 21-18 at the British Indoor Championships in Ballymoney. Booth, who had also lost in

vesterday's fours final, found himself trailing 12-7 after 14 ends but then picked up seven shots on the next four ends to Marshall countered with a

double on the next end, and then disaster struck the 29-year-old Booth. On the next end he drove, the Irishman took his own bowl out of the head and commanding 14-6 lead.

dropped a maximum four to put Marshall 18-14 ahead. A single six ends later clinched victory. Booth, along with team-mates Michael Knutt, James Talbot

Football Association.

and Sam Hall, lost the fours final 13-25 to the Scottish team of Billy Mellors, Kevin McFarlane, Jock Darling and Willie Gallo-

England's Ian Peacock, Chris Palmer and John Leeman from the Stanley club in Durham led from the opening end to take the triples with a 20-12 victory over Scotland's Mark Allison, Jim Romangh and Stuart Pagan.

England led 9-6 after 11 ends but a three on the 12th end followed by a double gave them a

Foulds holds his ground in motion of no confidence

Geoff Foulds refused to stand down as chairman and director of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association last night despite a motion of no confidence going against him in Bristol. A resolution lodged by five players, including Stephen Hendry, the world champion, calling for Foulds to quit was easily passed at an extraordinary general meeting.

Only nine of the 39 votes cast supported the successor to John Spencer, the previous meambent ing: "I will not resign on the Hann, in the first round -

strength of a meeting where I believe the members were misled." Foulds could stay as chairman until 6 May when his re-election comes up automatically.

If his opponents get their way he will be ousted before the end of next month and a number of full voting members have asked the WPBSA to reconvene another EGM - which must take place within 29 days.

Stephen Hendry's chances of remaining the world No 1 for an eighth successive season were bolstered at the Thailand Open in Bangkok yesterday as his who resigned last year. Foulds, main rival, John Higgins, lost 5-3 however, remained in office, say to the Australian, Quinten

Athletics

Athletics
Meriene Ottay, the Jamaican sprinter, will race in South Africa this spring. Ottay, the siver medalet in both 100 and 200 metres at the Atlanta Olympics, will compete in three meetings across South Africa from the end of this month. She will race in Pietersburg on 27 Merch Pretoria on 2 April and Cape Town on 8 April.

BOWES

DIGHTSH INDOOR CHAMPYONISHES (Bally-money, N Invited) Finalis, Singles, Scalard (R Meetins), N Invited) Finalis, Singles, Scalard (R Meetins), Berrinal) or learns (N Boom, On Aratint 21-13, Pairs: Weles (G Williams and G Jones, Fernancial Pairs: Weles (G Williams and G Jones, Fernancial Pairs: Weles (G Williams and G Jones, Fernancial Pairs: Weles (G Williams and G Jones), Pairs (Pairs) (Pairs: Scalard (N Adagon, J Robburgh and S Pegan Headwell) 20-12. Feers: Scaland (B Meetors, M McFestone, J Dudley and W Gelfoney Bellinsup) by Ireland (M Mett. J Talbor, S Hell and N Booth County Aratin) 25-13. Javier singles: Weles (W Philips, Rediscratify) by England (N Canneck, Boots) 21-18.

Neville Brown, the British midd will be challenging the Franchman Hassine Cherifi for the European title at Buttins Funcoest World in Skegness on 26 April. The bout will be staged in an 1,800-seat theetre in the Butlins complex, and will be Brown's second tilt at the title.

TOUR MATCH (Zwide, \$4): Australia 243 for 4 (45 cum) Eastern Province 2228 for 8 (45 cuers). Australia won by 18 runs.

Cycling

PARIS-NICE RACE Taked stage (1.73km; Beaugiev to Montheon, Phr. 2.7 Seeds (8ch)
Might 4hr 1.3mm 69cer; 21 IM Fegint (8.3se6; 3 F Memcastin (P) GAN; 4 V Bentov (Ras)
US Postat; 5 J Perspual (Est) Gashor; 6 V Questress (0) Point al some hrm. Leading oversit
stendings; 1 L Johnst (P) DIVICE 8-47-25; 2
Steels +3sec; 3 A Chrill (Jan) Loos +7; 4 M
Meuri (Sp) CIVICE +11; 5 A Bath (0) US Postel
+15; 8 C Moreau (P) Festina +16.

Football The Alax midfielder Ronald de Boer hes been voted Dutch Player of the Year by his fellow professionals.

his fellow professionals.

Sunderland are to play Ajax on Wednesday 30. July to commemorate the opening of their new 42,000 all-seet stadium at Wearmouth.

A CHILLIAN PROMISSION Re-arranged the west Wed & Apr. Coverty v Chetse. Wed 18-Apr. Wednesday v Leets. How 21. Apr. Coverty v Assent.

try v Assensi.

NATIONAL LENGTIE OF IRELAND SQUAD (v Regublie of Ireland B, Yolkin Park, Dublie, 27

Marchi: Renderson (Bohemans), Orberti
Dany Chy, Transon (Drogheta Uzh, 11 Geoglanjan (Bohemansi), Uspan (S Pantok's

Arthetic, Scruby (Bohemansi), Uspan (S Pantok's

Arthetic, Garrelley (St Partok's Arhietic), Holk-

SPORTING DIGEST

AVON BISLIFANCE COMBINATION First Divi-cios. Cristal Palace 2 Statem 1 (or Plough Lane).

ANON WESSENDERG CONSENSITION FIRST DIVISION CYCLE PRIME 2 STORT IN THE POLICE LANGE SHOWED I SHEET LANGE SHOWED LANGE SHOWED IN THE PROMETER SHOWED IN THE PROMETER SHOWED IN THE SHEET LANGE SHEET LANGE SHOWED IN THE SHEET LANGE SHEET SHEET

HOCKERY
HOCKER Lithwestit March guitton Krynesk Orford University O Cambridge Linewity 2. Old Stock match: Datord 2 Combridge 2. Schools: St Ed-word's Codord 3 Maniatin Combit 2.

NSU Prinsburgh 2 Montreel 2 (ot); Toronto 3 Daf-las 3 (ot); Chicago 2 Vancouver 2 (ot); Ottawa 4 Phoenix 1: Los Angeles 3 Detroit 3 (ot).

Ice skating TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL EVENT (Substant): Standings (effor first day): 1 Netherlands A 83pts: 2 Greet British A 74; 3 Scandineve 72; 4 Netherlands B 43; 5 Hungary 32; 6 Greet Intern

Rugby League

Bradford, the Chaffenge Cup semi-firmatists, yesterday signed Paul Ander-son, the former Great Britain Under-21, prop, from their West Yorkshire neigh-bours Halifax, Anderson, 25, a former-ameter international with Infred Helbours Hamst. Anderson, 20, a tomer amateur internation of who joined Ha-ifex from Leeds in 1983, has been giv-en a three-year contract keeping him at Odsel until the end of the 1999 sea-

Rugby Union Wilf Wooller, the former Wales captain, Glamorgan cricketer and England Test selector, has died aged 85. He proved

himself as an outstanding all-round sportsman, wiming 18 caps for Wales between 1933 and 1939 and leading Gamorgan to their first County Cham-porship success in 1948.

Wales Under-21 threequarters Rhys Shorney and Instan Bavies have been named in the Weish Students line-up to face England at Pontyprid on Fri-day. The University of Wales Institute, Cardiff provides seven players, includ-ing the back-row trio, Christian Evens, Geraint Lewis and Alwyn Davies.

A tightly bunched top four of the 14 yach's were starting to strench away from the rest of the field as they made their 2000-mile way to the Kerguelen Islands on the fourth leg of the 8T Challenge from Sydney to Cape Town, Std holding a near-20-mile lead was Merlyn Owen's Global Tearmwork from Simon Walker (Toshiba), Andy Kindley (Save the Children) and Mike Golding (Group 4).

THARLAND OPEN (Eanglost) First round: S Hardy (Soot) ti, M Rovertow (Eng 5-0; C) Harn (Aus) ti J Higgers (Soot 5-3; P Ebdon Eng br 8 Jones (Eng) S-3; J Parrott (Eng) bt G Dott (Soot) 5-4.

SHIPPO
STREAM GROUPD TOURNAMENT (Deadles, Japane)
Tried day of 12s Depot (Ann 1, lest 2) of Maugisato (1-2); Ogneti-la (2-1) in Ministration (1-2); Repot (1-2) by Definition (1-2); Ministration (1-2); Min

WENT'S CHAMPIONS' CLP (Indeed Wells, Child), Singles, Brist rounds' S Stobe (Aust in F. Mentita (Sp.) 0-6 6-3 6-3 6-3; A Bernsengus (Sp.) M. S. Laresu (Rom 7-6 7-6; F. Clavet (Sp.) bt. J. Country (Ros 4-4 6, 6-4; T. Woodbridge (Aust in D. Hrist) (Stovaki 7-5-5-7-6-2; Scraiken (Neth) to I. Paes (Brd) 7-6 6-2; A O'Bren (US) bt. S. Brussers (Sp.) 6-4 6-4; H. Dreseman (Gen) bt. P. Sebre (Aust 7-6-5-2; A O'Bren (US) bt. S. Brussers (Sp.) 6-4 6-4; H. Dreseman (Gen) bt. P. Sebre (Aust 7-6-5-2; A O'Bren (US) bt. S. Grade (US) 6-4 6-3; A vontes (Brun) bt. G. Forget (Fr) 4-6-4-2 (ret); N. Vontes (Brun) bt. G. Forget (Fr) 4-6-4-2 (ret); N. Vontes (Brun) bt. G. Forget (Fr) 4-6-4-2 (ret); N. Vontes (Brun) bt. G. Forget (Fr) 4-6-4-2 (ret); N. Vontes (Brun) bt. G. Forget (Brun) 6-4-6-3; A Constiga (Sp.) bt. F. Medigen (Bris) 6-3-6-3; Trengto (US) by M. Tesson (Swe) 6-3-6-3; Trengto (US) by M. Tesson (Swe) 6-3-6-3; N. Tesson (Sp.) bt. A Hicker (Gen) 6-4-6-3; N. Spries (Rom) bt. E. Urhoutsen (Pass 6-3-6-4; S Tesson (Fr) bt. F. Labet (Arg) 6-2-6-2.

Cricket

West Indies 427 and 241-4 dec: India 346 and 99-2 Match drawn

Both the West Indies and India took heart from the drawn first Test of the five-match series that ended on Monday when rain effectively washed out the final day. More than two hours were

ost, and with them the possibility of a result. India, set 323 to win after the West Indies declared, were 99 for 2 at stumps. *Obviously we would have

liked to have had the chance to press for a win," Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, said. "But we can't fight the weather. These things do hanpen and I thought we came out of the game well." Sachin Tendulkar, the Indi-

Rain ends chance of result

an captain, said: "It is the first time since Pakistan in 1989 that we've drawn the first Test of an away series so I think it's a good start." The form of Anil Kumble was

encouraging for the Indians: the leg-spinner took eight wickets. including a five-wicket haul in the first innings. The batting of Venkata Laxman, opening the batting for the first time in

Indies was man of the match Franklyn Rose. The 25-year-old took seven wickets on his Test

Tests, Rahul Dravid and Nayan Mongia also impressed.

The biggest plus for the West

Numble 5-120), 1800A - First Indings 346 (N Monge 78, V Ler-man 64; F & Rose 6-100). WEST MORES - Second lonings 241 for 4 dec (B C Lars 78). INDIA - Second lonings 241 for 4 dec (B C Lars 78). INDIA - Second lonings 241 for 4 dec (B C Lars 78). INDIA - Second lonings 241 for 4 dec (B C Lars 78). INDIA - Second lonings 241 for 4 dec (B C Lars 78). INDIA - Second lonings 241 for 4 dec

Trinidad on Friday.

Extras (b) 195; 99
Fatt: 1-6 2-68,
Bouling Ambridge 6-3-7-0; Walsh 8-3-7-1 vh2;
Rose 9-1-23-1 vp3; Hoper 16-6 27-0;
Chanderpat 6-0-18-0; Lize 3-0-18-0;
Umpires: 5 Buckner (Mi) and M kaphen (Eng.

Alphand fastest in practice

Skiing

Luc Alphand produced the fastest time in the first training run for today's men's downhill at the World Cup Finals in Vail, Colorado.

"I made lots of mistakes on the bottom, but I have the best time so I must be doing something well," the Frenchman said after recording a time of 1min 39.94sec down the 2,704metre (1.7-mile) course on Vail

Mountain yesterday. Austria's Patrick Ortlich was only one hundredth of a second slower and just edged ahead of

four compatriots as the quinter attempt to put behind them the disappointing performance by the Austrian team at the world championships in Sestriere. Italy, Josef Strohl, Hannes Trinkl. Werner Franz and Roland Assinger were hard on Or- events in Vail, was 10th fastest tlieb's heels, with Italy's Kristian Ghedina was seventh fastest

Alphand has dominated the downhill season with four wins and has easily secured the World Cup for that discipline. However, the Frenchman is determined to do well in Vail to maintain his momentum in his quest to become the first speed

specialist to claim the overall World Cup. Alphand holds a 117-point lead over the 1994 World Cup champion, Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt. The all-rounder Aamodi.

who will be competing in all four

in the first downhill training run with a time of 1:40.52.

downhill, first training times: 1 L Alphano (Fn 1min 39.94sec; 2 P Onlieb (Aut) 1:39.95; (Fr. 1min 39.94sec; 2 P Ortset) (Aur.) 1:39.95; 3 J Smobi (Aur.) 1:39.97; 4 H Trinki (Aur.) 1:40 17; 5 W Franc (Aur.) 1:40.21; 6 R Assinger (Aur.) 1:40.22; 7 K Ghedina (II) 1:40.25; 8 M Herrmann (Switt 1:40.27; 9 W Besse (Switt 1:40.50; 10 KA Agmoot (Non-1:40.52; 11 P Runggalder (II) 1:40.64; 12 A Schillerer (Aur.) 1:40.69; 13 F Strubi (Aur.) 1:40.70; 14% L Cattaneo (II) 1:40.73 and E Podwinsky (Can.) 1:40.73.



Sure thing

Austin Healey is full of confidence about his England call-up, page 25

United dream a nightmare for Hoddle

PETE WHITFIELD

The perennial club v country dispute will make an unwelcome re-appearance if Manchester United come within sight of their European dream. This season's European Cup final is due to be played on 28 May - three days before England face Poland in Chorzow in a crucial World Cup qualifying

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, will be unwilling to do without and Philip and Gary Neville and David Beckham, but the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, will almost certainly name at least the latter two in his international squad and would ideally want them in the England camp for the week

preceding the Poland match. The Foothall Association said yesterday that the matter will be discussed nearer the time but one thing is certain: the date nf the Poland-England match cannot be changed.
"It's a question for the two

managers to decide on further down the line," a spokeswoman said. "We're not really able to comment on it at present as it's not yet a reality. It could be

discussed before the [Euro-pean Cup] semi-final."

There was hetter news for United when the club learned that Peter Schmeichel will not face racism charges arising from his November confrontation with Arsenal's Ian Wright

The FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, has sent identical open letters to both players in which he implores them to make a public statement nf conciliation, on the day Schmeichel learned he would not face a criminal charge for alleged racist remarks.

Kelly strongly implies that, if the Arsenal striker and the game together, not dividing it.

Manchester United goalkeep er agree, they can avoid FA dis-

ciplinary action too.

In his letter to Schmeichel, Kelly writes: "I have to decide what is best for English football. I have to be aware that both you and Ian Wright are public figures, idolised by millions of football fans at home and ahroad. Your example is vitally

That is why I ask you, in the interests of the game as a whole, to make a public statement of reconciliation with Ian Wright as soon as possible. In doing so, you can be a power for bringing the

"In current circumstances, a drawn-out disciplinary procedure with uncertain results would not be helpful. I want to avoid it unless you and Ian

Wright leave me no alternative.
"I believe I understand your strong feelings about what has happened. But English football is higger and more important

than both of you, and me.
"The example you set by putting the past behind you in a public way can only be heneficial. You are well aware of the issues involved. Please recognise your responsibilities and respond urgently to my request." Television pictures appeared

insults at Wright during the 16 November fixture between the sides at Old Trafford, won 1-0 by United. However, the Dane denied making any racial remarks and the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday

decided not to take any further

action against him. The two men found themselves in conflict again last month, when United beat Arsenal 2-1 at Highbury. They had to be restrained at the end of that game, during which Wright made a controversial challenge on the United goalkeeper as they went for the ball.

tor, Maurice Watkins, said Schmeichel was delighted that

no action would be taken. He said: "Peter has been told the Crown Prosecution Service won't he pressing charges. He always believed this would be the outcome hut he is just pleased to have it confirmed. Peter is not a racist and

never will be. Ferguson is assessing Gadi Bromer, the Israeli international on trial at this week. The £2m-rated Maccabi Tel Aviv defender, a United fan of long standing has forsaken win ning another cap for Israel this

Ferguson. In spending the week with the double winners, Bromer misses his country's friendly international with

The 23-year-old Bromer bas set his heart on a permanent move to United. He said: "I don't know whether I am good enough to be a part of Manchester United but my target is to become a United player. I don't think I am going to have any problems either physically or technically. It's all new to me but generally I don't see any

More football, page 27

Proud day for Pipe the champion

RICHARO EDMONDSON

The run hegan at Stratford-on-Avon and ended gloriously at National Hunt racing's greatest theatre yesterday. Make A Stand led all the way in the Champion Hurdle to reward the partnership of Tony McCoy, the champion jockey, and Martin Pipe, the champion trainer. Cheltenham had been the stage

for a winners' tale. Make A Stand's season had begun innocuously enough in Warwickshire io October, but a clue to his future success came in the manner of victory. He ran so purposefully from the front that it was easy to imagine the abattoir wagon was behind him.

Further bandicap wins were gathered in similar manner, but when the gelding arrived for combat yesterday there were plenty willing to veoture that neither Cheltenham oor the Champion Hurdle was suitable for front-runners.

An additional caveat was novice who had oever before attempted an assignment as stiff as this. They said similar things about Sherpa Tenzing when he set out with his packed lunch

The diminutive chestnut with a white-splashed face looked like the regimental mascot in the parade ring among his more hrutish opponents. Elsewhere, Collier Bay, the champion. was nodding along like a chicken at the trot, while Large

Action circled with a catwalk sway, his head lowered as if searching for change. The two seasoned and fancied horses were soon picking up the

Large Action was the first to go, pulled up after two flights when Jamie Osborne detected there was a defect in the chassis beneath him. Collier Bay resented going firmer than he prefers and was brought to a

By that time Make A Stand had heen skipping away in froot for some time, with all the coocern of a member of Bo

ish. Connections - and the gelding had lost his most precious ones - were surprised that their charge took some time to recover, but others may be of the opinion that lopping off of the testicles is a manoeuvre that

Fifty yards from bome Mc-Coy leant back to administer a stroke of the whip but swiftly realised it would not be needed. The sticks were up behind him as if the Bengal Lancers were

The Irishman turned his movement into a flourish of juhilation and surged forward for a five-length success, break-

hall by Graham Bradley after

Peep's flock. At the top of the hill. McCoy gave bis conveyance time to fill the lungs and then started his dash for bome in earnest. It was hard to believe this was the same borse who bad been gelded as a three-year-old because he had become so mul-

might smart a little bit.

in pursuit.



Tony McCoy (striped cap) steers Make A Stand to the last and victory in the Champion Hurdle at the Cheitenham Festival yesterday

miles and 110 yards over hur-dles - which Shadow Leader had set just 75 minutes earlier - by 1.1 seconds.

Behind were the Irish pairing of Theatreworld and Space You always hope be'll stop. McCoy's debriefing suggest-Trucker, and the rider of the Even today, after the last, I ed he had been almost inci-

ing the course record for two miles and 110 yards over huring. Norman Williamson said: "He [Make A Stand] is a true champion. He just annihilates

you with his speed.

thought he might, and you can dental to the partnership. He get within six lengths of him, but said: "It's the greatest feeling the effort ends your chance. Whether you take him on early or late it's the same problem.

he cooks you."

said: "It's the greatest feeling when a horse makes all the running like that. He measures every hurdle up himself. You just have to give him a little bit of rein and go down and squeeze him. At the last flight

hig screen Ken provides an in-

termittent commentary. "It's cruising, the favourite," he

"Oh shit," sighs Peter.

The favourite's on the floor. Ken cries delightedly.
The joy is short-lived, though

The demise of Finnegan's Hollow allows Shadow Leader to win, the only other horse on

which Ken would have lost

money. The first race, and sev-

eral thousand down. Welcome

Ken gets off his perch and

Mulligan, the biggest

This time the gam-

hlers in person and

those on the phone agree. Mulligan is a certainty. As the hors-

es set off the atmos-

phere is palpably tense. If Mulligan wins they

are in trouble. When

Mulligan falls Ken is

silent, hat there is a

glint in his eye as he looks quickly around and clenches his fist

Ken allows a minute smile to pass across his face before it resumes

its normal demeannur of resigned persecu-tion. The banker has

gone the way of Barings and suddenly the af-

ternoon feels a little

favourite of the day.

lights a cigarette. A quene of

to Cheltenham.

Then, three fences from bome: "Gone. It's on the floor.

down the back he came up so far out he almost left me be-

The little horse was led in by the little man, and Martin Pipe seemed to forget for a moment that he is in possession of a limp. The trainer, who also won with

Or Royal, described it as "a great day" and only the iron hearts could begrudge him it as be had lost two horses on the corresponding card 12 months

previously.

Today's Cheltenham card,

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

7 Accomplished trainer, say, 1 that might hold Oxford? (8) 9 Little fellow with paper-round 2 is chilled (6) 10 State of true majesty (5)

(but not very) (8) numble flat (10,4)

15 Reduce tax of foreign trade exports, to begin with (6) 16 Viscount, with first house, making changes (6) 18 Get into the hit-parade and

suffer much criticism? (3,3,8) 20 Ready money, just far goar's 22 Shy attempt (5) 24 Loud orchestra-founder, re-tired, is an Egyptian peasant

25 Unyielding drive with dub (4-

Stuff completed by Foster. say? (8) Ariadne's opening number (4)

3 For example, reversing small car like a rocket (6) 11 Contemptuous of being broke 4 Points about small feet of old

Chicken in the basket? Not he! (10) Goldfinger, perhaps, upseting Moneypenny (6)

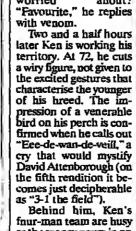
8 Border decoration giving pain after slight cough (3-6)

13 Keep tight grip (10)

14 Have they finished with wild the dates period in interests.

rag dates, around iniversity 17 Hood's Retreat from novelist nnt using the first person? (8) is interpreter, last to be advised of Jane Eyre's marriage (6)

19 Reportedly, the fat of the



21 Response from the chorus (4)

Celebrations cut short at Finnegan's wake

It's a quarter in eleven on a dazzling spring day and Ken Mercer is pitching his stall in front of Tattersalls. Ken is from Manchester, and concentrates his bookmaking on the northern courses, but he has not missed a Cheltenham Festival since 1952 and is not

about to start now. "For the it's the higgest thing in racing," he says. "Bigger than Ascot. At Ascot you get the toffs. The scene here is for

everybody."
Not that Ken looks very happy. Like those around him, he wears an expression of studied consternation, and if this is the best day of the racing year nobody is letting on. What is he worried ahout?

later Ken is working his territory. At 72, he cuts a wiry figure, not given to the excited gestures that characterise the younger of his hreed. The impression of a venerable bird on his perch is confirmed when he calls out "Eee-de-wan-de-veill," a cry that would mystify David Attenborough (on the fifth rendition it becomes just decipherable as "3-1 the field").

as the money pours in an the first race. Out front Ken is taking a lot of punts on Shadow Leader, but over the phone, where the bets come from the rails and the ring, the hig money

Matt Tench

watches a veteran bookie ply his trade at the track

"There's fortunes coming in on him," says Peter on the ledger, as he marks down in-dividual hets of £850 and

punters to satisfy, the first race traditionally one of the biggest in terms of turnover and by the start there is unmistakable concern among Ken's team at the prospect of what

would be a Finnegan's wake. punters eight deep gathers to collect their winnings. There is no respite either, with the next race featuring As we watch the race on the KEN MERCER involuntarily. When Or Royal wins

is mounting on the Ken Mercer: 'For me it's the biggest better. Perhaps it won't favourite. Finnegan's thing in racing. The scene here is for be such a bad Chel-Hollow.

Photograph: David Ashdown tenbam after all.

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS





CHRONOMAT on with pilots and aviation experts enables areiting improving its chronograph designs all the time, at leasures a selfwinding mechanical movement, a

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